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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jul

LD1707080196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 17 Jul 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 17 (ITAR-TASS) — IZVESTIYA carries a report on the cost of housing for elite groups of the population in Moscow and what people think about it. The cost per one metre of space of such houses is over 2.000 dollars, while an official wages of its potential owner is 1,5-2 million roubles a month, the newspaper said. In another article by observer Otto Latsis the newspaper comments on the appointment of Anatoliy Chubays head of the president's administration. The observer believes that appointing Chubays to this post Boris Yeltsin took into account both his excellent organizing talent and his intention to reach balance between structures of influence in the state apparatus. Besides, during the forthcoming elections of regional heads of the Russian Federation Chubays will be responsible to ensure that the course of the elections be keyed to the interests of the president.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI says in its column devoted to the programme of social reforms that "we have been given a chance to turn Russia into a country without poverty." Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that improving the living standards of low-income groups of the population was one of the main trends of the social reform. Russian Labour Minister Gennadiy Melikyan believes that despite a tight budget the state should help the needy by means of re-distributing incomes. The Russian Finance Ministry is switching over to a more reserved policy on the market of securities for purposes of diminishing profits and interest rates. The Finance Ministry will seek to lengthen the term of foreign loans, the newspaper said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a commentary devoted to the problem of juvenile delinquency. According to the latest statistics, over the past five years crime rates among adolescents have grown twice. The number of unmotivated crimes is growing. Newspaper experts make an attempt to analyze the causes of an upsurge of violence among children.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Physical Traning and Tourizm Sergei Shpilko who said that foreign tourists bring 4.3 billion dollars into Russia, while Russian tourists going abroad, according to official figures, take abroad 11.6 billion dollars.

IZVESTIYA publishes statistics and comments on conspicuous incidents of racket in Russia and presents a general image of racketeers created with their own assistance.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says, quoting commander of Defence Ministry troops stationed in Chechnya General Vladimir Shamanov that "after the separatists' stronghold in Chechnya had been liquidated, combat operations there entered a final stage." According to Shamanov, the search for small bandit groups and their liquidation continues, and servicemen wait in ambush to let truck convoys pass through. Commenting on prospects for talks with the militants, the General called to give priority to "cardinal political decisions."

Russia: Spokesman on 'Friendly' Yeltsin-Gore Talks

LD1607113496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — The meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore was easy and friendly, presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told correspondents after the meeting ended in Barvikha, the Moscow region.

The sides said they hope for further bilateral cooperation.

Yeltsin informed Gore of the election campaign and said it "was very tense." He had to visit over 30 regions and "got very tired."

Gore said he had to answer two major questions of American correspondents: "how does the Russian president look?" and "what are the prospects for Chechen developments?" As for the first question, the Russian president looks good, said Gore. The second question was answered by the president himself: the key task of the federal power institutions in Chechnya is to organize peace talks. "This is the only way to achieve peace," said the president. But federal security institutions "will also actively react to any bandit attacks and provocation attempts."

The settlement can be a success only in combination of these two measures, Medvedev cited Yeltsin as saying.

Gore described the policy of Yeltsin as an optimum variant under the current conditions.

The sides also discussed major international affairs. Yeltsin called for the earliest ratification by Russia of the START-2 treaty [sentence as received].

A treaty on comprehensive ban of nuclear tests was discussed as well. The president said Russia will boost efforts for the earliest signing of this treaty, and work with other countries to join it.

The sides considered U.S. investments in the Russian economy. Now that Russia is living through the third stage of economic reforms, both domestic and foreign investments in the economy are especially important, said Yeltsin. He promised to do his best to encourage foreign investments in Russian economy.

Russia: Yeltsin, Gore Discuss Missile Treaties

LD1607115096 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Here is our special correspondent Mariya Chernukha:

[Chernukha] After receiving Al Gore's congratulations on his impressive victory in the elections, Boris Yeltsin pointed out that the victory was not only his but that of the people of Russia.

Jokingly, the U.S. vice president said he very much liked seeing Boris Yeltsin dancing after the pre-election performance at the stadium in Rostov to which Yeltsin said it was amazing what one could learn to do during an election campaign.

The rest of the meeting between Yeltsin and Gore was held behind closed doors, but our correspondent has learned that sources in the Russian president's entourage said that the parties intend to discuss questions concerning the fulfillment of the START and ABM treaties and the drafting of a treaty on a universal ban on nuclear tests.

According to the source, Yeltsin and Gore also plan to discuss European security issues and the possibility of attracting U.S. investment to Russia.

Russia: Gore, Yeltsin Discuss START-2 Ratification

LD1607115996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 16 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin stands for an early Russian ratification of the START-2 treaty and will mount efforts to reach a general comprehensive nuclear test ban, according to his spokesman Sergey Medvedev.

During a meeting with US Vice-President Albert Gore on Tuesday "Boris Yeltsin stressed, in particular, that it was necessary to ratify the Start-2 in Russia in the near future", Medvedev told Tass.

He also said Yeltsin and Gore had discussed the issue of a comprehensive nuclear test ban and that the Russian leader "assured his guest that Russia will intensify the work to sign such a treaty by involving the countries which have not yet actively expressed their position".

Yeltsin also called on the USA to invest into the Russian economy. "The president noted that Russian reforms have passed two stages and now it is the third stage — the stage of investments, both foreign and domestic", Medvedev said.

"Boris Yeltsin will do everything possible to create favourable conditions to those who are going to invest into the Russian economy", he added.

Yeltsin said Russia was interested in promoting equal partnership with the United States.

"The atmosphere of the meeting, the comradely and even friendly atmosphere, reflects in general the character of relations between Russia and the United States", Medvedev said.

Russia: Yeltsin Seeks Foreign Investment in Russia

LD1607115496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 16 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin called on US and foreign businessmen to invest into the Russian economy and promised to do his best to create the necessary conditions for that.

"The president noted that Russian reforms have passed two stages and now it is the third stage — the stage of investments, both foreign and domestic", presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told Tass on Tuesday commenting on Yeltsin's meeting with US Vice-President Albert Gore which, he said, passed in "a comradely and even friendly atmosphere".

"Boris Yeltsin will do everything possible to create favourable conditions to those who are going to invest into the Russian economy", he added.

Russia: Gore Voices Clinton Reservations on Chechnya, Lebed

MM1607155096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "Instead of the Kremlin — Barvikha, Near Moscow; But This Does Not Alter Albert Gore's 'Agenda Items'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Vice President Albert Gore willy-nilly found himself in the unenviable position of someone "awaiting an audience."

At first the meeting with the Russian president enshrined in the program of his Moscow visit was delayed, and then it was postponed for 24 hours.

In the end Boris Nikolayevich nonetheless received the VIP guest at Barvikha, and the conversation lasted approximately one hour. Judging from the available information, Gore set forth the U.S. viewpoint on the continuation of the reforms in our country and urged the president not to reduce but, rather, to step up their pace. The retention of Viktor Chernomyrdin as premier and the new appointment for Anatoliy Chubays are the very signals that Washington was expecting.

At the same time we have learned that Gore's "agenda items" included two topics which lent a somewhat tough tone to the conversation: the continuation of the war in Chechnya and Aleksandr Lebed's activity in the post of secretary of the Security Council.

It is noteworthy that on the eve of and during his visit to Moscow Gore, unlike Bill Clinton and Warren Christopher, very definitely advocated a most speedy cease-fire and the start of a partial Russian troop withdrawal.

Ahead of the presidential election the incumbent White House chief obviously intends to make it clear to "friend Boris" that the period of silence over the Chechen question has come to an end. Of course, Clinton, who regards foreign policy as his hobbyhorse, would like to see the Kremlin at least make gestures demonstrating a desire to end the war. The U.S. mass media's coverage of the war in the North Caucasus remains critical of Russia, and so Clinton has a right to expect understanding from "friend Boris."

The same also concerns Lebed. His democratic convictions elicit doubts in the United States. The abrupt change in the general's position on Chechnya, which is noticeable in his recent interview in THE NEW YORK TIMES, merely increases the Americans' suspiciousness.

According to our information, the instructions which Gore received from the U.S. President for the conversation with Yeltsin took this form. He was intending to carry them out in the Kremlin. Instead of the Kremlin he got Barvikha. As a new diplomatic address.

Russia: Gore Meets Aleksandr Lebed

LD1607164296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) - Russian Security Council Secretary and presidential national security aide Aleksandr Lebed met with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore in Moscow Tuesday, an informed source in Lebed's entourage told Interfax.

Lebed and Gore discussed the political situation in Russia after the presidential elections, nuclear security, in particular the storage and transportation of fissionable materials, as well as the implementation of earlier bilateral agreements on fighting organized crime, the source said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin, Gore Sign Cooperation Documents

LD1607164096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) - The seventh session of the Russian-U.S. Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation has culminated in the signing of a package of 27 documents.

The commission's co-chairmen, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, signed a memorandum on cooperation in the prevention of industrial and natural disasters and dealing with their consequences.

Under the document, communication, training of personnel and other kinds of bilateral cooperation in preventing industrial and natural disasters will be improved.

A joint statement of the two governments provides for joint steps designed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

Chernomyrdin and Gore signed a document on major steps in the initial assembly of an international space station which specifies a schedule of stages in the creation of the proposed Alpha space station.

The two men also signed a joint statement on an ecological initiative. The document takes note of the significant progress made in studying the Arctic climate, expanding the monitoring of ecological disasters, evaluating the potential for dealing with their consequences and in drafting a methodology of risk evaluation in the development of oil and gas fields.

Heads of U.S. and Russian agencies signed numerous other documents, in particular a joint Russian-U.S. statement on monitoring, guarding and transporting nuclear materials.

A schedule for the working group on fighting economic crimes and a statement on cooperation in the development of capital markets have also been signed.

Chernomyrdin said that the session had disproved the skeptical forecasts and the outlook for bilateral cooperation had never been better.

"We intend to lay emphasis on the expansion of investments in the Russian economy," he said.

Gore said that the two countries were on the threshold of a new period in which large investments would pour into Russia.

The agreements on the safety of nuclear materials, in particular on the joint construction of a large storage facility for weapons-grade plutonium are especially important, he said. This storage will minimize the risk of the wrong people laying their hands on weapons-grade materials, Gore said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Views U.S. Investment, Trade

LD1607161896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) - U.S. companies have invested $360 million into the Russian economy this year, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a working luncheon with Russia and U.S. businessmen on Tuesday.

He said that the United States was the leading direct investor in Russia. American investments in Russia have totalled 2.5 billion dollars, a little less than one-third of all foreign investments.

Chernomyrdin said that the problem of the trade balance between the two countries was improving. "Since the beginning of the year imports from the United States have risen by 50 percent. The structure of our trade has changed, too, it no longer relies on the purchase of grain and the sale of raw materials," he said.

Chernomyrdin said that the "balance was in Russia's favor" in terms of the problem of expanding Russian exports to the United States. At the same time he said that the favorable balance in trade with the United States "was a tiny fraction of the 20 years of imbalance resulting from the massive grain imports from the United States."

Chernomyrdin called for an expansion of Russian exports to the United States and said that proceeds from those exports were returning to the Russian economy in the form of investments. Chernomyrdin believes that export revenue is an alternative to international long-term credit programs and helps Russia pay off the credits received earlier. "It is not only Russia, but its partners, too, who stand to gain," Chernomyrdin said.

As he reviewed the role of various Russian-U.S. business associations, the Russian prime minister spoke highly of the center of Russian-American partnership of Russian businessmen. This center is led by Russian Duma deputy Ivan Rybkin, and its office in Washington will open in the fall.

Chernomyrdin said the recently founded Russian-U.S. oil club was a good springboard for bilateral cooperation. Within the framework of that club, meetings of Russian and U.S. officials will take place, and members of the Duma-Congress group will be able to meet with IMF leaders.

Russia: Prospects for Space Cooperation With U.S.

LD1607173296 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The final plenary session of the Gore- Chernomyrdin Russian-American intergovernment commission today discussed a number of issues related to the development of space telecommunications and cooperation in exploring inter-planetary space. Our special correspondent Regina Lukashina reports:

[Lukashina] The Russian prime minister, in opening the plenary session of the Russian-American commission on economic and technical cooperation, reported that the Russian and American sides ascribe great importance to the development of space cooperation, including the creation of earth-orbiting manned systems.

Daniel Goldin, head of NASA, described the docking of Russian and American orbital stations a year ago as being of comparable political significance to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This significant event, he said, opens up a new era in the exploration of space. The Americans presented the co-chairmen of the commission, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Albert Gore, with Russian and United States flags that had been in orbit. These standards, tattered as they were from radiation and fragments in space, were gratefully accepted by Viktor Chernomyrdin and Albert Gore.

The space programs of Russia and the United States, which were separate for three years, have now been united, Daniel Goldin said. After the meeting on the results of signing the joint documents the work of the scientists in both countries will be united in terms of the design, assembly, and use of the Alpha space station. A joint financial base is being created and there are currently no problems in the functioning of its mechanisms. Technological processes are being developed.

In this way, Daniel Goldin summed up, one of the main strategic tasks of the new period of cooperation is the transition from military objectives in space exploration to humanitarian and peaceful construction. It is for this purpose that the Alpha space station is being set up. Russian Radio news service, Regina Lukashina from the President Hotel.

Russia: Paper on WASHINGTON TIMES Publication of Primakov Letter

MM1607163296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Primakov's Secret Letter Published by U.S. Newspaper"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — A letter written by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and not intended for outsiders' eyes has appeared on page one of the WASHINGTON TIMES, a conservative and acutely anti-Clinton newspaper. "We have a problem here," State Department spokesman N. Burns has said. "We have somebody inside the U.S. Government who has access to secret information and is passing it on to a certain reporter.... And there's been a steady stream of these leaks to him."

THE WASHINGTON TIMES specializes not just in leaks but specifically in those leaks which deal with probable arms limitation accords between the United States and Russia. Or to be even more precise, with plans to create an ABM defense system in the United States.

The idea for a small-scale version of "Star Wars" is part of Republican presidential contender Bob Dole's election campaign. Claiming that a threat to America could come from such states as Libya, Iran, or North Korea, the Republicans intend developing an all-around defense for the United States. For this it will be necessary to review one of the most long-standing disarmament agreements concluded with the USSR — on the limitation of ABM defense.

In his letter, Foreign Minister Ye. Primakov proposes limiting the parameters of targets for ballistic missiles with a speed of from 5 km per second and a range of 3.5 km [as published] during tests of strategic ABM systems; to enshrine [as published] the use both of multiple reusable [mnogokratnyy vozvratnyy] engines on ballistic missile targets and of reusable [vozvrashchayemyy] launch vehicles for strategic ballistic missile targets; to ban space-based nonstrategic ABM interceptors, and a number of other measures.

Even though N. Burns refused to confirm the authenticity of the Russian minister's letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which has been published in full in THE WASHINGTON TIMES, its reliability is in no doubt. It opens with Ye. Primakov's informal address to his U.S. counterpart: "Dear Chris." A related piece in the newspaper indicates that an unnamed State Department staffer has conceded that the text is accurate.

The present leadership of the U.S. Defense Department considers the creation of a space-based ABM system either premature or entirely redundant. However, this is no obstacle to U.S. diplomacy's fierce defense of its right to begin research and testing of an ABM system. In these conditions the only reason for the absence of the Russian text of Ye. Primakov's letter is to conceal it from our public.

Russia: Regret Over Implementation of Helms-Burton

LD1607181896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 16 Jul 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) - Moscow reserves the right to take adequate measures to protect Russian companies if their interests are harmed by the implementation of the U.S. Helms-Burton law, Vladimir Andreyev, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

The law envisages sanctions against countries and companies trading with Cuba.

The spokesman expressed regret over the fact that the U.S. administration had begun the implementation of the bill's exterritorial provisions despite serious international opposition.

Andreyev recalled that Washington is threatening to prohibit entry to the United States for the heads and officials of companies trading with Cuba.

Russia: Primakov Regrets U.S. Stance on Cuba

LD1607200496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Itar-Tass) - Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said on Tuesday that Italy was awaiting a visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin with great interest.

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit is awaited with great interest. We hope the date will be agreed in the near future," Dini said on completion of talks with his Russian counterpart Yevgeniy Primakov.

"The Russian presidential elections have shown that the population supports the political and economic line of the country's leaders," he said.

According to Dini, Russia has great resources that will bring it up to a "new level of well-being and prosperity."

Successful Russian-Italian cooperation rests on a solid legal base which was created during the past two years, he stressed.

A memorandum on Italy's deblocking a loan worth 260 million US dollars may be signed next week, the Italian foreign minister said.

The money will be used for the implementation of major investment projects in power engineering, the chemical, light and food industries, as well as in telecommunications, he said.

Accords on currency control and military and technical cooperation are almost agreed, according to Dini.

Further development of investment cooperation will increase the influx of money not only from Italy, but also from other countries, he said.

Over 700 Russian-Italian projects have been set up recently. The sum of money invested totals 150 million U.S. dollars. Small and medium-sized Italian businesses, supporting the nation's economy attract, Russian partners most, he said adding that Italian experience in this field may be of particular interest to Russian entrepreneurs.

Dini expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his Moscow talks which allowed to sum up what has been achieved and to outline the shape of future cooperation.

In addition, the two ministers exchanged opinions on some burning international problems which Russia and Italy are trying to solve jointly, he said.

The Italian minister hoped that both bilateral political dialogue and Russia-NATO dialogue would deepen.

Meanwhile, Primakov said that the Helms-Burton Act, which was passed in the U.S. and which prevents foreign companies from trading with Cuba, "is of entirely domestic character and cannot cover the sphere of international trade relations."

"We oppose everything that hampers free trade," he said stressing that the Russian side had manifested its negative attitude towards the above-mentioned law.

He said Russia would not support new sanctions against Cuba.

"Russia is not alone in its approaches," he said, referring to a recent statement by the Organisation of American States against such practices.

"Such a mood is widely spread in Europe as well," he said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin: Yeltsin Victory Will Benefit Clinton in Polls

LD1707083196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0654 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Andrey Chitov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin believes the victory of President Boris Yeltsin in Russian elections will help his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton at the upcoming polls in the United States as it proves the correctness of the White House policy toward Russia.

"Clinton is being attacked for what is alleged to be the wrong policy regarding Russia. He was told that Yeltsin would lose. But that did not happen. I think this is convincing for American voters and confirms that they are on the right track," Chernomyrdin told Tass on Wednesday, adding that "the American people will decide themselves" at the upcoming presidential elections. "They are more experienced then we are in this respect", he said.

Chernomyrdin admitted that he had discussed the U.S. election theme with US Vice-President Albert Gore.

"Yes, we did. We talked about everything. Such is our fate", Chernomyrdin said adding that Gore had assured him that the Clinton administration is set only for victory.

"The Clinton administration and the Yeltsin administration work in one style. Although not everything goes easily, we work and strengthen good relations. I believe that is quite a lot", Chernomyrdin stressed.

The premier resolutely denied allegations that a key role in Yeltsin's victory was played by political consultants from the United States. "I told Gore about that and I shall tell you and anyone else: such publications are pure self-advertising", Chernomyrdin said adding that he was well-aware of all details of the election campaign.

"As you can understand I knew everything. But I have not even heard about American consultants and when I read (about them) I was surprised", the premier said.

Russia: Yeltsin U.S. Consultants' Role Viewed

MM1607110996 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Yevgeniy Ivanov: "One More Assault Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Vice President Albert Gore has arrived in Moscow on an inspection trip.

After SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's publication first of the sensational article by WASHINGTON POST journalist Lee Khokstader [name as transliterated] (in its 6 July issue) and then the commentary on it about how "self-effacing" Americans had forged Yeltsin's victory (in the 11 July issue) the Russian democratic press and the selfsame television channels which for several months had collaborated very closely with the transatlantic image makers in carrying out the "Secretive Band" operation were forced to address the subject of the scandalous role of the U.S. political consultants in waging psychological warfare against G.A. Zyuganov, the candidate from the bloc of the people's patriotic forces. Last Sunday on "Itogi" Yevgeniy Kiselev tried to cast doubt on the weight of the "quiet Americans'" contribution to Yeltsin's reelection. The "refutation" was constructed according to the principle of "We weren't born yesterday." They said that the Americans could hardly grasp the nuance of political life that were used when conducting, for instance, the "Vote or Lose" propaganda campaign. Here some light was shed on the plans for the president's participation in mass rock concerts and overt speculation on the patriotic feelings of the Russians of the older generation. They said it was not the "quiet Americans" but the "think tanks" from Yeltsin's election team who had prompted his successful ploy: to call Stalingrad Stalingrad 9 May on the banks of the Volga. It is entirely possible that it was indeed like that and over 200 Russian advisers quite deservedly recently received from the president's hands watches with their names on for their propaganda ideas and a hint that they would be rewarded with positions. They included Vasiliy Shakhnovskiy, invited by Kiselev to the studio to expose the U.S. consultants as "the children of Lieutenant Schmidt [reference to Ilf and Petrov novel "The Golden Calf in which two conmen pretend to be the destitute sons of the hero Schmidt]."

Meanwhile Feliks Braynin confirmed in an interview that the "quiet" Americans hired by the Kremlin were by no means the luckless "children of Lieutenant Schmidt." It was thanks to one of them — Richard Drezner [name as transliterated] — that Bill Clinton once began his political career. And George Gorton [name as transliterated] "helped Pete Wilson become governor of California." Opening up, Pete Wilson admitted that the emergency U.S. team for Yeltsin's reelection as mobilized when the Kremlin authorities lost the Duma elections. He is convinced that "the start of Yeltsin's election campaign forecast a crushing defeat for him." That is why the "quiet" Americans whom Vasiliy Shakhnovskiy, if we are to believe him, did not once see at the President hotel, performed strenuous analytical work following the "focus groups" method — ascertaining public opinion. It was the American "top guns" who suggested a television campaign to advertise the payment of wages and pensions arrears. They conveyed via Yeltsin's daughter Tatyana Dyachenko the recommendation that Grachev be removed from the post of defense minister.

The scandalous revelation of U.S. interference in Russia's domestic affairs at the most crucial moment of the president elections created a very negative background for the first inspection trip to Moscow by Vice President Albert Gore since Yeltsin's reelection. Perhaps this was also discussed behind closed doors at the meeting between Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, and General Lebed, who now heads the president's Security Council. The U.S. State Department was obliged to make a special statement in which, first, it distanced itself from its "quiet" compatriots — the Russian president's consultants — and, second, diplomatically stressed the services of Yeltsin himself and his team in achieving victory at the election.

It was not for nothing that Albert Gore brought with him to the routine session of the U.S.-Russian commission for economic and scientific and technical cooperation high-ranking officials including Defense Secretary William Perry and leading U.S. businessmen. Back before the start of the session the U.S. press reported that the White House was ready to make full use of Yeltsin's reelection and intends to step up pressure on Russia with regard to a whole series of avenues of its foreign and domestic policy. The Clinton Administration is insisting on the acceleration of the State Duma ratification of the START II treaty on a the reduction of strategic arms which many eminent Russian experts assess as disadvantageous to our country and undermining the foundations of its security. After 3 July the White House started speaking out loud about the need to expand NATO to the East. Finally the United States would like to engage in earnest, on terms advantageous to itself, in the development of Russia's enormous resources in the oil and gas complex.

You form the impression, however, that the White House is not assessing entirely appropriately the post-election situation in Russia. In connection with the seventh meeting between Gore and Chernomyrdin which began in Moscow 15 July within the framework of the U.S.-Russian commission for economic and scientific and technical cooperation created in 1993, BBC radio broadcast a commentary by the well-known political scientist Princeton University Professor Stephen Cohen who was very sarcastic about the U.S. vice president's tirades immediately after arriving in the Russian capital. Albert Gore portentously stated: "The whole world followed the presidential elections in Russia with inspiration." Stephen Cohen is surprised that "the Clinton Administration is inclined to rejoice over Yeltsin's reelection." After all, as a result of the elections, which it is hard to call truly fair and democratic, a man whose health, despite the sanguine statements of his entourage, "leaves room for improvement" remains in the Kremlin. And most important Yeltsin's reelection not only has failed to open prospects for the stabilization and upsurge of the Russian economy but on the contrary has merely emphasized the hopelessness of the present position because "financial crisis looms on the horizon not to mention a general economic crisis." Stephen Cohen also levels crushing criticism at the package of proposals with which, as we can judge from the press reports, the U.S. vice president has arrived for his latest meeting with the Russian premier. Albert Gore intends to try to persuade Moscow... to continue the same economic policy whose bankruptcy seems not to be doubted now by the Kremlin leaders themselves. And in Professor Cohen's opinion it is absolutely intolerable that Vice President Gore intends to recommend that Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin include "reformers" that suit America in the new Russian Government.

The political scientist ends his commentary with a pessimistic but highly radical recommendation: Perhaps it would be better if under the existing conditions the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission were to suspend its work until better times? As Albert Gore once noted, so far this commission has built its work on the basis of the "two steps forward one step back" principle. Ultimately it would be possible to agree with this pace for the development of cooperation were it not for the White House's blatant attempt to interpret this formula in its own interests: Two steps forward for America, one step back for Russia!...

Russia: World Media, CIS Heads Criticized for Yeltsin Support

MM1707103396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Viktor Drozd: "Boris Oleynik: 'Russia Does Not Need Prompters'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the annual session of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, Boris Oleynik, head of the Ukrainian Supreme Council delegation and Ukrainian people's deputy, stated, in particular:

"Elections are entirely the internal affair of any state because the right to elect belongs only to the people. That is the ideal. However, what is happening in relation to the elections in Russia cannot be described as anything but direct pressure from certain foreign forces and their mess media on the train of events in Russia.

"One gets the impression that virtually the whole world's press, radio, and television are openly 'working for Yeltsin' and just as openly slinging mud by falsifying other candidates' programs.

"How would the U.S. public react if certain presidents, for instance in Latin America, officially stated that they support only the present White House incumbent's candidacy for the presidency and that they urge U.S. voters to vote only for Clinton?

"You would say that this is simply intolerable in a civilized community.

"But in May this year certain CIS countries' presidents, who gathered in Moscow like casual agitators, openly urged Russians to vote only for Yeltsin.

"So if this is not direct, gross interference in a sovereign country's internal affairs, what is it, then?

"Based on the foregoing, I would like to state the following:

"The Council of Europe would be making a worthy contribution to the development of the idea of parliamentarism by categorically condemning such actions and statements by the aforementioned CIS presidents as an unprecedented and gross interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Russia — a member of the European family. And by simultaneously pointing out to such agitators that the Russian people do not need prompters, even if they are of presidential rank."

Russia: Commander of Russian Peacekeepers in Bosnia To Be Replaced

LD1607121496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russia is going to replace its peacekeeping commander in Bosnia. Tass learned from sources in the airborne troops on Tuesday that Colonel Sergey Generalov will replace Aleksandr Lentsov who will be transferred to head the Svirsk airborne division.

The replacement goes together with the scheduled replacement of Russian peacekeepers in Bosnia. 200 paratroopers are to be airlifted there on Tuesday, the press office of Russia's Airborne Forces told Tass.

The regrouping in which 900 paratroopers will be replaced with fresh forces, began on July 12 and is expected to be completed by July 23.

Russia's Airborne troops commander Yevgeniy Podkolzin, who has been inspecting the performance of the Russian unit in Bosnia since July 12, is returning to Russia today.

The press office quoted him as saying that Russian peacekeepers are properly fulfilling the tasks set by President Boris Yeltsin within the framework of the Dayton accords.

Russia: Primakov Supports Butrus-Ghali for Second Term in Office

LD1607135396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1316 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (ITAR-TASS) — Russia supports the decision of African countries to put forward Butrus-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations for a second term. This was announced today by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov during a joint news conference with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa.

"We consider that the African continent has, by its decision, supported the nomination of Butrus-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations for a second term. So far there are no other candidates. As far as Russia is concerned, we highly assess his activity in the post of UN secretary-general. And naturally, we support the African countries' decision to nominate him," the minister said.

Russia: Lebed Receives Egyptian Foreign Minister

LD1607130296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1229 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (ITAR-TASS) — The situation in the Middle East was discussed today by Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council and national security assistant to the Russian president, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who is in Moscow on an official visit.

ITAR-TASS was informed by the Security Council's press service that the Egyptian minister "spoke in favor of Russia's active role as cosponsor of the Middle East peace process. Confirmation was given of the common aim of Moscow and Cairo to coordinate their actions aimed at overcoming the difficulties which have arisen in the attempt to achieve an Arab-Israeli settlement on the basis agreed at the Madrid peace conference. The Russian side gave high assessment of Cairo's efforts to consolidate the Arabs on the basis of constructive approaches."

Russia: Egypt's Musa Comments on Talks With Russian Officials

NC1607184696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1645 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Moscow today, after a two-day visit during which he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to the Russian leadership on recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

During the visit, Musa met with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov; General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian president's national security adviser; and Gennadi Seleznyov, chairman of the Russian State Duma. The talks dealt with the latest Middle East developments, since Russia is a cosponsor of the peace process.

In a statement before leaving Moscow, Musa stressed that he had sensed from his meetings with the Russian officials Russia's readiness to play its role as a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process, in conjunction with the other major states, particularly at this time when the peace process is going a stage of weakness, the same weakness which the U.S. role is suffering from because of the presidential elections.

Regarding the conflict in Chechnya, Musa told a MENA correspondent in Moscow that Egypt has made its position clear from the start of this conflict. He explained that this position could be summed up in the need to solve problems through negotiations and not by force. He added that following the signing of the Moscow document with the Chechen leaders, this document must be respected and implemented, and the first measure in this regard is to observe a cease-fire to end the bloodbath, prevent the fall of more victims from both sides, and proceed toward a peaceful settlement. He noted that this settlement must take into consideration two main elements. The first is the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and the second is the Chechen people's aspirations.

Commenting on Musa's visit, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Posuvalyuk said that his country views Egypt as a major state that plays an important role in the Middle East peace process. From this premise, the peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem was one of the most important topics that Russian Foreign Minister Primakov discussed with Musa. He explained that the Russian official is in the process of taking several new measures and steps in the near future related to the Middle East issue, without specifying them. He stressed the need not to cause interruptions in the peace negotiations, to prevent extremists on both sides from taking advantage of the current interruption in the negotiations to blow up the entire process.

Russia: Russia, Egypt State Full Support for Mideast Peace Process

LD1607182296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1801 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Aleksandr Valiyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Itar-Tass) - Russia and Egypt declared their full support for the Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive and fair Arab-Israeli settlement and peace, according to a joint statement by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa.

The document signed and released on Tuesday said Russia as a co- sponsor of the Middle East peace process and Egypt as its organizer and one of the major regional participants in the Arab summit in Cairo, appeal to all the negotiating parties and especially to Israel to step up efforts to overcome the obstacles which impede the achievement of the Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Both sides confirmed their commitment to work towards the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East under resolutions 242, 338 and 425 of the U.N. Security Council based on the "land for peace" principle.

Moscow and Cairo expressed confidence that the Madrid conference and the subsequent development of the peace process created a secure groundwork for progress in the Middle East negotiating process, which should not be reversed.

In this light, Moscow and Cairo noted the similarity of their positions at the all-Arab summit in Cairo and the G-8 summit in Lyon.

Russia and Egypt also called for the complete fulfilment of the earlier Arab-Israeli agreements and for progress towards the final peaceful settlement in the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese directions. All the parties must display a constructive approach in accordance with the agreed principles in the interests of resuming talks on all issues and ensuring their success, according to the statement.

Russia: Primakov Concerned at Statements by Israel's Netanyahu

LD1607145496 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1437 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — The statements made by Binyamin Netanyahu both before and after his election as Israeli prime minister worry Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov.

Certain elements of what Netanyahu has been saying are inconsistent with a continuation of the peace process in the Middle East, he said at a news conference following talks with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa. The Russian and Egyptian views of this were identical, Primakov said.

Primakov and Musa believe, however, that "one should not be totally pessimistic."

"The election race is one thing and the after-election situation is another. Statements made in the first months after an electoral victory are not what is said later," Primakov said.

Very right-wing politicians have been known to take steps to resolve crises peacefully, he said. "They are, in a sense, in a better position to do so because they do not have to fear an attack from the right. This was so when the then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed an agreement on Sinai. I do not think that Netanyahu is much to the right of Begin," Primakov said.

"It would be an ill-conceived step to convene an international conference such as that in Madrid, as suggested by those who would have the Middle East peace process start from scratch, without recognizing what has been achieved," he said in response to an Interfax question.

Russia will play its role as a co-sponsor of the peace talks "by maintaining contacts with the Arabs, Israel and our partners in Western Europe and the United States to keep the peace process alive and cut the pauses in it," Primakov said.

Primakov called for a resumption of the negotiating process along the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese tracks leading to a just solution based on land for peace.

Primakov and Musa made a joint statement on the Middle East.

Russia: Panov on Relations With ASEAN Countries

MK1307105296 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 9

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov: "Aleksandr Panov: The Russian Presence in Southeast Asia Is Meeting the Interests of Both Russia and the Entire Region. Moscow Does Not See the Conditions Essential for the Settlement of Its Territorial Dispute With Japan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Southeast Asian countries are interested in Russia's political and military presence, since this presence allows to maintain a balance of forces in the region. Such a viewpoint was expressed in a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent by Aleksandr Panov, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, who supervises the Asian-Pacific direction of the Russian foreign policy. The high-ranking diplomat noted that in the past two and a half years the Foreign Ministry "has managed to dissipate" the anxiety of Southeast Asian countries with respect to Russia. Now, in his words, Russia is being perceived as a "constructive partner," which is also evidenced by the status of a dialogue partner, granted to it recently by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). At the ASEAN ministerial session due to be held in the third decade of July in Jakarta, Russia will act for the first time in the same capacity as the United States, China, Japan, Canada, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand.

In addition to the session, Yevgeniy Primakov, head of the Russian delegation, will take part in the [ASEAN] Regional Forum on security issues (ARF), instituted two years ago at the ASEAN meeting in Bangkok. The deputy minister said that, within the framework of the forum, Moscow had come up with a proposal that principles to ensure security and stability in the region be worked out. The Russian initiative largely coincides with the stance of ASEAN's academic circles, which, in their turn, prepared a draft code of conduct in the Pacific. Mr. Panov said that the ideas underlying their document were "very close to ours." At the same time, the U.S. proposal that a meeting of the region's defense ministers be held has not been met with particular enthusiasm yet. While in Jakarta, the Russian delegation intends to bring up the question about regular consultations at the level of deputy ministers. This fall, the first meeting of ASEAN's commission on scientific and technical cooperation will be held in Moscow.

In the opinion of the Russian diplomat, Russia is being integrated into Asian-Pacific structures much more successfully than into European and global structures. With an active support of the ASEAN countries, especially Indonesia, Russia has been given the status of an observer in the nonalignment movement, which is living through its far from the best days but has still retained its considerable political capital. Moscow has activated its participation in all semiofficial forums and is taking part in multilateral consultations on security issues (such as between Russia, the United States, and Japan). It can be presumed with a high degree of certainty that Russia will receive an invitation to the second "Europe-Asia" summit in London. At any rate, Aleksandr Panov said, British Prime Minister Major and Japanese cabinet head Hashimoto have already informed the Russian president about their positive stance on this matter.

The only remaining, as Mr. Panov put it, "blank space" for Russia is its membership in the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). As is known, at the constituent summit in Seattle in December 1993 a decision was made to impose a three-year moratorium on the admission of new members to this organization. Of late, however, there have been reports that the term of the moratorium can be extended on the pretext that membership criteria are being worked out. Quite obviously, Mr. Panov noted, Russia qualifies for any criteria. The diplomat disagreed with the view that the admission to the APEC will turn into a purely formal procedure once Russia establishes large-scale economic relations with the countries of this region. He said that the Foreign Ministry does not regard the Russian positions as weak and, to prove this, he gave figures of trade turnover. The bilateral trade volume stands presently at $6 billion with Japan, $5.5 billion with China, $3 billion with South Korea, over $2 billion with Taiwan, $1.2 billion with Thailand, about $1 billion with Singapore, and $800 million with Hong Kong. (Incidentally, the deputy minister said that in the near future a representation of the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission on Economic and Cultural Cooperation will be opened in Taiwan. Let us recall that a representation of the Taipei-Moscow Commission in Moscow was opened as long ago as in 1993). In total, Russia's trade turnover with the ASEAN countries amounts to $4.5 billion, which is greater than that of India, a major trade partner. The trade with the countries of this regions accounts for 30 percent of Russia's entire foreign trade turnover. Thus, Mr. Panov said that the view that our positions in Southeast Asia are weak does not correspond to reality, although, of course, we would like to strengthen them further. The Russian diplomat especially emphasized the prospects of cooperation in the field of military technology with the countries of this region, which are now actively rearming. For understandable reasons, he did not disclose the essence of negotiations in detail, but it is known from other sources that negotiations on the supply of Russian armaments are under way with several Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Further, Aleksandr Panov dwelled upon Russia's bilateral relations with several countries of the region, such as Japan. After a telephone conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Ryutaro Hashimoto, Moscow believes that the subject of a possible change in the Russian stance on the territorial issue is closed. During this conversation, as was reported earlier, the sides confirmed their adherence to the spirit and the letter of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration, which calls for the settlement of the territorial issue based on the principles of law and justice. Thus, the intention of the Russian president to visit the South Kurils and to raise "the presidential banner" on Kunashir, about which he said on 1 July in an interview with INTERFAX, should probably be regarded exclusively as an electoral move. As for the well-known statements of Yevgeniy Primakov (the minister urges Tokyo to leave the territorial issue for next generations, referring, for an example, to the dispute between Japan and China over the Senkaku Islands), in Mr. Panov's words, the situation is a bit different. At present, Moscow does not deem it possible to make any political decision in view of the absence of essential conditions for this in both countries. At the same time, the concept of "expanding balance," popular in the Japanese political and business circles, whereby economic cooperation with Russia should be accompanied by some progress in the settlement of the islands issue, is also not quite suitable for Russia. According to Aleksandr Panov, there are no precision scales on which progress in such a delicate matter could be weighed accurately. Meanwhile, the diplomat believes that the Russian-Japanese relations "are on the rise." The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that it would be reasonable to concentrate on the settlement of so-called "para-islands" problems, such as fishing in the area of the South Kurils. In Mr. Panov's words, Moscow does not lose hope that a corresponding agreement will be concluded before the end of this year. The main difficulty in these and other negotiations of this kind is that the Japanese refuse to recognize not only the Russian sovereignty but also the Russian administrative control over the islands and, for this reason, regard any business activity in the "northern territories" inappropriate for them. In Mr. Panov's opinion, this principle should be "dissolved" in the interests of both countries.

Finally, speaking about Moscow's stance on a settlement in the Korean Peninsula, Aleksandr Panov expressed his disagreement with the opinion that the Russian initiative on a multilateral conference on Korea had been elaborated to a lesser extent than the U.S. proposal to call a quadrilateral conference. He believes that a breakthrough is hardly possible without a diplomatic recognition of the DPRK by Washington and Tokyo. In addition, the North [Korea] and the South [Korea] need to lessen the intensity of their propagandistic rhetoric with respect to one another. The deputy minister confirmed that the term of the treaty on friendship and mutual assistance between the Russian Federation and the DPRK expires on 9 September. He said that, in accordance with the conditions of the treaty, one year before this date the Russian side notified Pyongyang that it would like to revise it. Until now, however, the DPRK has not informed Moscow about its opinion regarding the Russian draft of a new treaty. Moscow hopes that now that the presidential election is over the North Korean side will become more active.

Russia: Moscow Expects To Become ASEAN Dialogue Partner

LD1507113696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 15 Jul 96

[By Andrey Varlamov and Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 15 (Itar-Tass) — Moscow expects that the status of ASEAN's Dialogue Partner will be granted to it soon, a Russian high-ranking diplomat told Itar-Tass on Monday on the eve of the departure of a Russian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, for Jakarta to attend a meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on security.

"We are carrying with us specific proposals to stimulate Russia's relationship with ASEAN — an utterly important organisation, which now turns into a Group of Ten, bringing together all South East Asian countries," said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov.

"We believe that this is a positive process, particularly in the period of moving from the unipolar world to a multipolar one," Panov said.

ASEAN Senior Officials, at their meeting in the Indonesian capital last week, adopted recommendation that Russia be granted the status of full-fledged Dialogue Partner at the forthcoming ASEAN Foreign ministers' enlarged meeting, due to be held at the end of this month, Andrey Bychkov, Itar-Tass correspondent in Jakarta, has reported.

Russia has been invited to ARF sessions on security since 1994, but until now it had Consultative Status at the ASEAN.

Panov believes that Russia-ASEAN relationships have a very good future. "We have got no ideological differences, no trade and economic contradictions, no divergences of opinion on regional security and stability problem. We have similar positions on many international issues," he said.

At the ARF session, Russia intends to come forward with specific proposals within the framework of its initiative concerning the elaboration of a "code of conduct" in the Asia-Pacific region.

Russia: No Grounds for 'Pessimism' Over CTBT

MM1507151496 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Petrovskiy, secretary general of the Conference on Disarmament, by unnamed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent; date, place not given: "Nuclear Tests Will Be Banned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest stage of the Conference on Disarmament session finished recently. In this connection KRASNAYA ZVEZDA asked Vladimir Petrovskiy, secretary general of the Conference on Disarmament, a number of questions.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Vladimir Fedorovich, what are the results of the latest stage of the session?

[Petrovskiy] This year the Conference on Disarmament, as the world community's unified multilateral forum for talks on disarmament, focused all its efforts on completing the elaboration of the final text of a universal Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty amenable to effective multilateral monitoring. This task is viewed as one of the greatest priorities facing the whole world community. The conclusion of such an international document has been on mankind's agenda for over 40 years, but it is only in the past few years that a serious political basis emerged for beginning practical talks on this question.

The conclusion of such a treaty, in the opinion of the majority of UN members, is the most effective means of achieving the cessation of nuclear tests. It will also contribute to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the nuclear disarmament process, and consequently to the consolidation of international peace and security.

The UN members' commitment to this goal coupled with enormous political and diplomatic work enabled the members of the special committee on banning nuclear tests to largely complete the talks. This, in turn, enabled Dutch envoy Jaap Ramaker, chairman of the committee, to prepare and distribute the draft treaty in May. During June some of the outstanding problems were agreed on, with the result that at the committee's final session 28 June its chairman presented an updated draft treaty which, in his opinion, represents a reasonable balance between the desirable and the feasible. Many believe that the treaty is already within the bounds of the feasible. At the present stage this is the main result of the current session of the Conference on Disarmament.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What is the international context of this stage and how is it linked to the calendar of international events, including the UN calendar?

[Petrovskiy] Both nuclear and non-nuclear states will benefit from the banning of nuclear tests. The treaty is an epoch-making achievement of multilateral diplomacy, second in importance after the Chemical Convention as an international legal document elaborated by the

Conference on Disarmament this decade. The rational change in the international situation in the world has contributed considerably to the successful outcome of these talks. New opportunities have opened up for the progressive development of international law on disarmament and for the codification of the principles defining disarmament and the regulation of armaments as enshrined in the UN Charter.

This year has been marked by a number of other important events in this sphere. The nuclear arms reduction process is being carried out successfully, the U.S. Congress has ratified the START II Treaty, and the relevant hearings have begun in the Russian parliament. A document on creating a zone free from nuclear weapons on the African continent was signed in Cairo 11 April. In Geneva 3 May the conference examining the operation of the Inhumane Weapons Convention ended work and adopted a new protocol on limiting the use of antipersonnel land mines. In December a similar conference is going to be held to examine the operation of the convention banning biological weapons.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What is the current situation with regard to the draft Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and what are the prospects for its signing in 1996?

[Petrovskiy] As I have already noted here, the text of the treaty was distributed 28 June among the countries participating in the talks for study in the capitals in the period between sessions. When presenting this text the chairman of the special committee recalled that, for the treaty to be ready for signature by the opening of the 51st UN General Assembly session, the committee's work must be completed by 28 June. That did not happen and the chairman consequently proposed that the committee examine a further plan of actions on the first day of the final, third section of the Conference on Disarmament session. Many countries gave the chairman's final text a preliminarily positive reaction and France became the first country to declare its readiness to sign the document in its present form. Italy stressed on the European Union members' behalf that the treaty must be ready for signing at the beginning of the 51st UN General Assembly session. Egypt, speaking on behalf of the nonaligned members of the Conference on Disarmament expressed regret that it has not been possible to achieve consensus, before the end of part two of the annual session. These countries, numbering one-half of the 61 permanent members of the conference, have declared their readiness to continue talks until agreement is achieved on a consensus-based text of the treaty which could be recommended to the UN General Assembly in 1996.

At the same time a whole series of delegations, including China, the Russian Federation, India, Pakistan, and others, expressed serious reservations about the text, noting that it does not fully or accurately reflect their positions or fully correspond to their national security interests. The provisions on the treaty's entry into force remain among the most contentious issues at the present time. A number of countries, including China, Pakistan, Russia, and Britain, insisted that eight states (the five recognized nuclear powers and three threshold countries — India, Pakistan, and Israel) must ratify the treaty in order for it to enter into force.

But India has stated that it will not be able to sign the treaty unless its interests are taken into account. This means first and foremost a pledge by the states party to this treaty to assume commitments on further measures in the nuclear disarmament sphere within an agreed time frame, up to and including the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Another provision unacceptable to India is that it is mentioned by name on the list of countries which must sign the treaty in order for it to enter into force. The position of India's neighbors is a cause for concern. Pakistan has stated, for example, that unless India signs the treaty it will hardly be able to accede to it. China has spoken out in roughly the same vein. India has not confined itself to an oral statement and has sent the conference chairman a letter giving notice that it will not be able to support the proposal on the preliminary incorporation of three stations on its territory in the International Monitoring System. In practice this means that the International Monitoring System has a weak link in South Asia, which is bound to alarm the experts.

Among the other questions clearly requiring further coordination are the preamble to the treaty, its sphere of coverage, questions relating to on-site inspections, in particular permissible levels of the use of national technical means, the decisionmaking mechanism for instituting an inspection, the composition of the future organization's Executive Council, and so forth. As for the preamble, some developing countries believe that the proposed text of the treaty is an inadequate step in the nuclear disarmament sphere. In the final stage of the talks conflicts over the treaty's sphere of coverage became even more acute. A number of nonaligned countries are insisting that the treaty must ban not only nuclear weapons test explosions but all nuclear tests generally.

Differences of opinion still persist over the composition of the future organization's Executive Council. The final version recommended that its membership be set at 51 states. However, the African countries believe that their continent will be underrepresented on the council and are demanding more seats, while Iran has stated that it will not sign the treaty unless the council's membership is formed on the basis of the principle of geographical distribution used in the United Nations. There are, of course, a number of other, secondary questions which nevertheless require serious political and expert study.

The problems and difficulties that I have noted above should not be grounds for panic-stricken pessimism, however. This is a normal negotiating process which requires a full balance of the interests of all the participants in the negotiations and the most acceptable solutions in the military and political spheres. The businesslike mood of the countries participating in the talks inspires the hope that the Conference on Disarmament will manage to cope with its set task this year.

An important political impetus was given to this process by the G-7 meeting in Lyon at the end of June, in which Russia took part. The heads of the world's leading states confirmed their determination to complete the negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on time, which would make it possible to ensure the signing of the treaty in September at the beginning of the 51st UN General Assembly session, and appealed to all conference members to agree that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty should ban all nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What is on the conference's agenda in 1997?

[Petrovskiy] While awaiting the completion of the talks on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty various groups and individual delegations are asking what the conference is going to do next year. As is well known, its agenda is drawn up at the very beginning of each annual session on the basis of its own recommendations and the recommendations of the UN General Assembly session and of individual countries. Specific questions of the conference's work are traditionally selected from the so-called decalogue which contains the 10 main global areas in the sphere of arms control and disarmament.

With the end of the Cold War and the gradual solution of individual problems disarmament does not become less relevant or acute but acquires a new qualitative content. That is also why the Conference on Disarmament still contains a vast amount of work. It seems that next year the conference will finally be able to begin elaborating a convention on banning the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. A decision on the creation of such a committee was adopted last year, but the concentration of efforts at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty talks has so far pushed other questions into the background. The nonaligned countries are also insisting on the opening of talks on nuclear disarmament within the framework of the conference and on the creation of a special committee for this purpose. However, a number of Western nuclear powers consider the conference an inappropriate venue for that.

There are extremely realistic prospects that in the very near future the conference could become the venue for talks on a global ban on the use of antipersonnel land mines. The conference members are extremely serious about their intention to revive next year the committees on questions of transparency in armaments and on preventing the arms race in space, committees which operated until recently. A wish to begin examining the question of conventional arms reduction has also been expressed. Each of the regional groups undoubtedly has its own priorities and preferences and the task for conference members is to dwell on questions whose solution meets the national security interests of each of them individually and of the whole international community together. However, the conference's definitive agenda for 1997 will be finalized during the work of the UN General Assembly's First Committee in New York this coming fall.

Political Issues

Russia: Medvedev: Yeltsin Favors Peace Talks With Force in Chechnya

LD1607125496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 16 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin believes the best way to settle the Chechen conflict is to combine peace talks with suppression of any provocations by the separatists, according to his spokesman Sergey Medvedev.

He told Tass on Tuesday that during a meeting with US Vice-President Albert Gore, Yeltsin reiterated that peace talks were the main direction of his policy in Chechnya. "It is only in this way that we can come to peace", he quoted the president as saying.

However, Yeltsin said it was necessary "to actively respond to bandit attacks and suppress any provocations".

"The president hopes to achieve success in solving the Chechen conflict by combining the two directions", Medvedev said adding that Gore agreed with the position and noted that it was, probably, the most acceptable variant in the existing situation.

Russia: Yeltsin Ideology Said To Be 'Monument to Era of Cynicism'

MM1707101496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Vishnyakov: "Instruction To Produce an Ideology"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with particularly distinguished activists of his election campaign, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin instructed them to think about creating an ideology for the state he heads.

The socialist society had an ideology, perestroyka had one too, but today's leaders with their "democratic" achievements seem to be lacking something. Boris, however, despite his higher education in construction, is not entirely right this time. Social ideologies are not composed even by presidential injunction. They develop from a system of ideals that really exists in society and from the values and principles of mutual relations among people. There is no society without an ideology. And our society produced by a victorious criminal revolution has one too, of course. Its main elements are quite clear: the cult of profit by any means, subservience to the West, including to the most negative aspects of the Western way of life, the cult of base instincts, and a contempt for traditional humanitarian values....

It goes without saying that not all citizens espouse this hideous code of unbridled boorishness. Those people who still have a conscience retain the simple and radiant tenets of collectivism, patriotism, and philanthropy. Many people have not lost the need for honest toil, the right to which has been virtually confiscated by the usurpers of the people's property. But the offensive against these precepts which have been produced over decades is gaining momentum and is threatening to turn the whole country into a den of thieves.

Hence the authorities needed the fig leaf of "ideology" to hide this shame. It is not hard to guess what kind of ideology this will be: a mixture of turgid national-patriotic and religious rhetoric with rabid anticommunism. You do not have to look far to find the creators of it — there is a hall full of them listening reverentially to this incomprehensible muttering from the stage. And if this "ideology" is created it will of course be a monument to the era of cynicism and hypocrisy in which we have the misfortune to be living.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Says Russia 'Badly Needs' Investments

LD1707084596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Andrey Shitov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russia "badly needs" investments, including the foreign, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told Itar-Tass on Wednesday.

"We need all kinds of investments, both domestic, to make the investor work, and foreign," said Chernomyrdin, commenting on the results of the session of the Russian-American intergovernmental commission on economic and technological cooperation.

"I want to emphasize once more that investments is not a sop, nor is it a gratis help. This is a work on conditions of a parity. You are welcome to invest, develop, build plants, produce and gain your profit," he said.

The inflow of investments in Russia means "the creation of new working places, and as a result additional tax revenues" in the government's coffer.

"The entire world lives like this," Chernomyrdin emphasized. "We want to process here what we have produced, we want to have our own products," he added.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Cited on Agricultural Imports, Chubays Appointment

LD1607165296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has not confirmed reports about plans to impose quotas on the import of agricultural products to Russia as announced in a Tuesday statement by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who is responsible for agriculture.

"Zaveryukha was incorrectly understood," Chernomyrdin said at a news conference on the results of the seventh session of the Russian-U.S. Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation.

He stressed that the government will support domestic producers but will not allow a shortage of goods on the domestic market.

Chernomyrdin hailed ex-First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays' appointment as head of the presidential administration. He described Chubays as "an able and talented organizer who knows how to work." Chernomyrdin also pointed to Chubays' "ability to learn" how to resolve problems he had not faced before. He said he expects the appointment to be fruitful.

Chernomyrdin said that practically all issues relating to the certification of the Russian Il-96 long-range passenger plane for flights in the United States have been resolved. He said the plane's certification will cost 136 billion rubles. Similar Russian-U.S. certification programs exist for other Russian planes, said Chernomyrdin.

He said the next session of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission will be held in the United States in about six months.

U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who attended the Moscow session of the commission, will leave for home late on Tuesday evening.

Russia: 'Unexpected' Chubays Appointment, Role Viewed

MM1707090196 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Viktor Trushkov: "Chubays' Second Coming"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is perhaps the biggest Kremlin cadres sensation, although not the most unexpected. Anatoliy Chubays has been appointed head of the Russian Federation president's staff and simultaneously the president's first aide. It can be considered that this is the second appointment this summer season deliberately made for effect. When A. Lebed was admitted to the Kremlin they thus openly won over nearly 11 million of his voters. The situation now is the diametrically opposite one: By bringing back to the very Olympus of the president's entourage the "privatization minister" (as A. Chubays is extolled in the West), who is disliked by millions, the top authorities are stressing their post-electoral disregard for the will of the voters. And not only of the 40 percent who voted for G. Zyuganov but also, I think, the 10 million or so of those who believed that Chubays' resignation in January was not simply an election ploy but a serious rectification of course.

Even before the publication of the edict, V. Ilyushin, the president's former first aide, preparing public opinion, announced that all the activists in B. Yeltsin's election staff in gratitude for their service would be taken on for Kremlin and White House posts (one wonders what posts or awards were promised to the team of "quiet Americans" who according to the West's assessments have made Boris Nikolayevich president through the end of this century?) Who is moving the figures on Yeltsin's board?

Of course it is not that a new trainer and second has been attached to our "chief player." Anatoliy Borisovich is already too well known for the clarity of his position in selling off the country's national economy, in mouthing Westernizing ideas, and in taking steps toward a geopolitical division of the world in which there is no place for a Great Russia.

Even at the halfway point in the election toil A. Chubays made his presence felt by taking part in a unique Kremlin scandal connected with saving the dollar couriers A. Yevstafyev and S. Lisovskiy (they tried to remove $0.5 million from the government house) and with bringing down the "power department chiefs" A. Korzhakov and M. Barsukov and First Vice Premier O. Soskovets. The fate of people who in contrast to Chubays himself had at least in part not scorned national interests was decided in a night since by the will of fate they were linked to the military-industrial complex and the main representatives of "national capital."

I shall recall the frankly symbolic statement made by Chubays' aide A. Yevstafyev, arrested that evening, to the effect that during the memorable nighttime conversation over coffee and tea his "opponents" had said: Yeltsin will win but with the aid of true patriots and not phony ones. Why out of the 11 hours of talking was it precisely these rebukes which caused offense to the election staff activist? Or was he simply expressing Anatoliy Borisovich's anger?

Even before he has taken up the post of the Kremlin's chief administrator Chubays has already taught his compatriots a number of lessons.

First, the resignations of A. Korzhakov, M. Barsukov, and O. Soskovets according to his scenario were initially presented in such a way that their main political crime consists in an insufficiently respectful attitude toward "big money."

Second, by concentrating the dismissal operation directly around money our scenario writer enabled all officials to swear public allegiance to "big money." You notice that the premier and the new Security Council secretary, not to mention Chubays himself, are "not interested" in whose government office the $0.5 million were taken from. At the suggestion of the politician who is now head of the president's staff it was not the crime that was condemned but the fact that they tried to halt it. Because the criminals are their own men ("Of course he is a son of a bitch but he's our son of a bitch" — F.D. Roosevelt) and their actions were allegedly aimed at "the right cause."

Third, Chubays made it clear three weeks ago that he was the chief director of the Kremlin stage. It was he who, after the dollar mix-up at the "White House", roused Security Council A. Lebed, who had not slept for several nights before and who had no knowledge of the crime. He also determined the fate of the "overzealous" defense generals because, he said at a press conference, the question of their dismissal was decided in the first 15 minutes of his meeting with B. Yeltsin. So even before he took up his post A. Chubays had begun to manage not only the "tough-talking general" but also the president himself.

...But what if Chubays saved the $0.5 million from the curiosity of the law for a different reason? You remember he promised to issue two Volga automobiles for every voucher? Perhaps the man has come to the Kremlin to start using the dollars hidden in the cardboard box to pay for goods to fulfill the old promises he made to his compatriots?

Russia: New Roles of Chubays, Ilyushin Pondered

MK1707090096 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Leontyev: "Scenery After a Battle — On the Eve of Another One"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Chubays's consent to take the post offered to him, without doubt, was the result of a very serious external pressure. There is no reason to doubt that Anatoliy Borisovich [Chubays] was sincere in declaring his refusal to take any post in the administration. As for the president, he was equally sincere in saying that no proposals for Mr. Chubays were contemplated.

Mr. Chubays is indeed the best state official in postreform Russia. The post of head of the [presidential] administration seems to have been tailored specially for him: a tough organizer and an ardent commissar of reforms, ready to do anything to attain the goal. The first political life that was granted to Mr. Chubays, however, has already been sacrificed to the fatherland, and his rating as a public politician does not create any illusions. This can look as Aleksandr Matrosov [popular hero of World War II] throwing himself onto the gun port several times.

There are no grounds to regard Mr. Chubays as a person who fails to realize that after a retreat for a while from public policy he could have good chances to come back again in a very serious capacity. Now, however, he finds himself in a most dependent role, fully subordinate to the will of those who appointed and persuaded him. Possibly, this is precisely what they like about Mr. Chubays most.

The future will show who these people in fact are. In any case, the surprisingly symmetrical lateral troop movement — Mr. Chubays versus Mr. Ilyushin — can be only admired. Whereas, however, the function of Mr. Chubays in the administration is understandable (this will be, in his words, "something much more greater"), the function of Mr. Ilyushin on the post of first deputy premier, promised to him by the president, is much less clear. Mr. Ilyushin cannot supervise either macroeconomic or industrial or else power issues.

Incidentally, such a turn of events is not only abnormal but is clearly dangerous: One of the already active (and not for the first time, too) first deputy premiers, for instance, proposed that the coal industry be switched over to another production. None other than Mr. Lobov has again fallen into his old ways, such as egg laying or the storing of pine flour for winter.

Mr. Ilyushin (unlike the previous example) is an outstanding apparatchik, and his only possible function in the government is to act as the head of staff in the rank of first deputy premier. It is not quite clear, then, what the present premier will deal with. His immediate specific task is clear: to avoid the imminent budgetary and financial crisis. In principle, no one realizes the threat inherent in this situation better than Mr. Chernomyrdin. The question is whether he has the appropriate capacities, levers, and the willpower to fulfill such a terribly hard task. For some reason, the premier is constantly producing an impression of a person with hands tied up and a gag in the mouth.

His capabilities now are fully dependent upon the elucidation of principles of the formation of a new team. There is only one way to find out who is behind the large-scale staff shake-up throwing all of the president's people out of his team: the president himself or his right/left (underline as appropriate) hand. This will be shown by the nearest future of Mr. Ilyushin, today's main image maker in the Kremlin. It is Mr. Ilyushin who noted in proper time that the president lacked a "brain center" and undertook to run one. The office "mighty mouse" seems to be growing into a real "batman" right in front of our eyes; the question is, however, to what extent he is ready to fight against such an enemy of the mankind as a financial crisis.

Most interestingly, the crisis is likely to reach its peak this fall, the time of mass gubernatorial elections. It will be very interesting to see how the present Moscow authorities will be able to influence the elections in the provinces by finally cutting off the regions from sources of their financial supply. This is especially interesting in the context of the removal from the Kremlin of Nikolay Yegorov, the only person who represented the interests of the provinces in the administration and enjoyed a real authority in these regions. The future of Mr. Yegorov himself is clear enough: Having become an elected head of Krasnodar Kray, he is potentially turning into one of the mightiest figures in the Federation Council, whose political role is constantly growing in the process of chaotization of the Moscow policy. This, however, cannot be said about the present participants in the "cutting up of the winner's carcass."

A budgetary crisis against the background of an investment crisis (can be vice versa) is overhanging them in a way more frightening than Lebed is (can also be vice versa). Mr. Chubays, of course, is the best guarantor of foreign investments (in the same way as modesty is the best adornment of a woman) — as long as there are no other guarantees.

Russia: Luminaries Comment on Chubays Appointment

MM1607202396 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed roundup of materials on Chubays' appointment: "Will Anatoliy Chubays' 10 Days Shake Up the Kremlin and Staraya Ploshchad?; It Is Within a 10-Day Deadline That the New Head of the Russian Federation President's Staff Is To Prepare Proposals for Improving the Structure of This Staff"]

[FBIS Summary] "Anatoliy Chubays: I shall not devote myself to economic issues because I believe that the government should devote itself to those; the main thing that I shall be engaged in is the building of the state in the broadest sense of the word.

"After the election of the president a new phase of building the Russian state will begin. It includes the strengthening of the authorities in the regions and at the same time the reinforcement of the presidential vertical chain of command where it must exist. Undoubtedly, the president's Staff cannot remain aloof from the elections of the heads of local administrations which will get under way very shortly." [Chubays Ends]

Three edicts of the Russian Federation President all dated 15 July and numbered 1031,1032, and 1034 are printed: announcing the release of N.D. Yegorov from his post as head of the president's Staff "in connection with his transfer to other work"; appointing A.B. Chubays in his place; and appointing Yegorov head of the Krasnodar Kray administration.

This feature is flanked on the left by two brief biosketches of Anatoliy Chubays, and Nikolay Yegorov, and on the right by brief quotes from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, and KOMERSANT DAILY commenting on the appointment.

The remainder of the feature consists of quotations from various prominent Russian politicians and statesmen which reads in full as follows:

"Ivan Rybkin, deputy of the State Duma:

"The appointment of Anatoliy Chubays as head of the Russian President's Staff can only be welcomed.

"Chubays is a top-class professional and the practical experience which Chubays acquired in recent years is unique and combined with a high degree of theoretical training.

"Sergey Belyayev, leader of the 'Russia is Our Home' faction:

"With the arrival of Anatoliy Chubays in the post of chief of staff it ceases to be a bureaucratic structure and this will lead to the strengthening of its interaction with the government and the democratic part of the Russian Federation State Duma. Anatoliy Chubays has shown himself to be a multifaceted individual and an analyst, so his appointment will mark out a definite line for the president's future conduct and work.

"Vladimir Lukin, head of the Duma International Affairs Committee:

"Anatoliy Chubays is one of a few people of the democratic wave who have the attributes of an administrator, a undoubted administrative talent. Under him the staff will be tougher and more energetic, but on the other hand Chubays will have his work cut out to correct his own negative image.

"Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia:

"The appointment of Anatoliy Chubays will block the president's Staff. The weakness of the president lies in producing useless people. Criminal proceedings should be taken against Chubays for the criminal privatization, but here he gets appointed to a post that is higher than the first vice premier.

"Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the 'People's Power' deputies group:

"Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] has recently been talking more about the need for accord in society but I fear that the president's new chief of staff will not cement the people but will engage in confrontation which he has already proved having devoted himself earlier to privatization issues in the government.

"Yegor Gaydar, chairman of the Russia's Democratic Choice party:

"The appointment of Anatoliy Chubays is a major strengthening of the positions of the consistent liberals in the structure of the Russian executive. For me this is an additional hope that the mandate received by Boris Yeltsin in the presidential election will be used to conduct the reforms that are essential in Russia.

"Sergey Shakhray, deputy of the State Duma:

"The appointment of Anatoliy Chubays is linked with the gubernatorial elections in a number of regions of the Russian Federation that are upcoming before the end of this year. The Russian Federation president is taking an extremely serious approach to the forthcoming elections of the heads of the administrations of the Russian federation's components. Some 35 governors will be elected and this could substantially alter the correlation of forces in the Council of the Federation. And for this reason a preponderance of Communists in the upper house of the Russian parliament must not be allowed.

"Yuriy Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow:

"Although my attitude to Chubays is well known, the Russian Federation president's decision on appointing Anatoliy Chubays has to be respected.

Russia: Lebed Sees Chechen Accusations as 'Irresponsible'

LD1607135896 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council, considers that the accusations which are being made by the leaders of the Chechen separatists against the Russian leadership over the escalation of combat actions in Chechnya are irresponsible. The statement, distributed by the Security Council's press service, says that representatives of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev placed responsibility for the increase in combat actions on Aleksandr Lebed in particular, and proclaimed him to be an enemy of the Chechen people who should be taken before the International Court in The Hague. The document says that such accusations do not facilitate the settlement process but only make the situation more tense.

Russia: Lebed's Post-Election Role Viewed

MM1607134996 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Frolov: "Landscape After the Battle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The smoke of the election battles is gradually dispersing and the same picture meets our eyes: The decline in production, the financial crisis, and the war in Chechnya. They have not gone anywhere and indeed could not go anywhere. Nonetheless something has changed, and changed substantially: The shadow of a missed opportunity has settled on the Russian political landscape.

How will this missed opportunity affect Russia and what new opportunities will it implement or miss again? To answer we must overcome society's entirely natural satiation with politics and turn to an analysis of the political situation and an attentive study of the landscape since the battle. [passage omitted]

The bourgeoisie, in an attempt to avoid its fate, is turning increasingly steeply to the right. The team which made an hysterical attempt to intimidate voters with the specter of repressions and GULAGS, has been able to tilt the scales in its favor merely by associating itself to the ferocious slogan "He who shoots first laughs last!"

Czarevna Lebed

The author of this slogan makes out he is the official czarevich heir and does not tire of repeating persistently that, having compared the "old" and "new" ideas for Russia's social development, he has chosen in favor of the latter. But what is important for history is not the ideas which enter the heads of individuals but what they do specifically to implement those ideas.

Lebed's activity began when he acted as the main showman in the latest, lavishly staged palace coup when the Russian version of the Chinese "Gang of Four" — Grachev, Korzhakov, Barsukov, and Soskovets — were removed from the president's immediate entourage.

Palace coups are no rarity. It is the pomp that is the rarity. That is what is most interesting. The main question which must be answered when we investigate the events is why their removal was brokered by Lebed and his statements on the exposure of plots and the thwarting of attempts at a coup d'etat?

Lebed acted as the instrument in the hands of the Chubays group whose strategic goal is to remove from the political stage all forces which are in any way oriented toward the state and geared to the defense of Russia's national-state interests.

Such forces were in the president's entourage. They should not be exaggerated but nor should we underestimate them. These people could be sincere, could be cunning and crafty, following personal career goals — the crux lies not in subjective intentions and feelings. The thrust of the matter lies in the fact that in the line of conduct they adopted there was room left for Russia not as a geographical concept but as a single and independent state.

But removing them was only part of the job and not the largest since the most authoritative and influential state forces never belonged to any presidential entourage.

It is in that light that Lebed's role can be explained. The power general was necessary to ensure a specific form for the entire operation. After all, Yeltsin could have removed the "gang of four" simply by his own edicts without pretending to uncover attempts at a coup d'etat. But he cannot "remove" Zyuganov by an edict. So this must be done by Lebed, following the well worn path, that is by revealing another "plot" — this time from the left.

A direct hint to this effect was made by Lebed himself, stating even before the first round of the elections that his task was to prevent attempts at rebellion and the undermining of the elections from the right and the left. And he betrayed the thrust of Chubays' plan by uttering the at first glance nonsensical phrase about how the expulsion of the "gang of four" was the final nail in the coffin of Russian communism. There are no signs that this plan has been repealed and we should not lose our vigilance.

...Once upon a time on the basis of evil gossip by those who envied him, Prince Gvidon was put into a barrel and flung out to sea. But the prince was saved and shown kindness by the Swan [Lebed means "Swan" in Russian] Queen and even entered into lawful marriage with her.

It is highly dubious whether matters will get to the point of lawful marriage now. But meanwhile Chubays-Gvidon has every reason wholeheartedly to thank the general:

"Go, swan, may god give her the same joy he has given me."

How this joy ended is also well known:

"The day passed and Czar Saltan was laid to sleep half drunk." [reference to Pushkin poem]

The reins of government of Russia have been put into the hands of the most predatory cosmopolitan grouping of which Russia's chief privatiser and seller is the embodiment. And all this to slogans of patriotism and order, under the care of "the truly Russian patriot" whose texts are composed by Messrs. Nayshul and Radzhikhovskiy.

Now political reality is such that after the elimination of the right-wing statesmen who, like the mythological Anteus had strength only as long as they were touching the president's body and lost it as soon as they parted with him, only the left-wing patriots are left as a real force. Patriotism is not an idea that resides at court or in the corridors and the forces supporting it must be sought not in the master's hall, not in the bath house and not on the tennis court but among the broad masses of the people.

That is what the left-wing forces must do now, taking into account the experience of successes and errors they have accumulated. But this topic deserves to be discussed separately.

Russia: Two-Party System Seen Emerging After Election

MM1607135696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13 Jul 96 p ii

[Article by Andrey Papushin under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Two-Party System Already Emerging"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is every reason to believe that the political features of the most distinctive "physiognomies" will become still more pronounced. In any event we have already heard Viktor Chernomyrdin's official statement that in the near future the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] sociopolitical movement is going to be transformed into a political party. In this way the pro-presidential forces will switch from purely bureaucratic activity to professional political activity.

It seems that there will be changes in the Communist camp too. Even before the Communist leader's defeat in the presidential election, a "secret" Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Committee plenum at the start of June spoke of the need to change the party's image. In particular, CPRF analysts (and the party's leadership seems to agree with them) have proposed that the party's name (?) be dropped along with the Communist rhetoric that intimidates the people and the well-known maximalism of the program demands. In other words, there is the prospect that the CPRF is going to develop into a mass opposition party of a social democratic type.

It is interesting that at the CPRF Central Committee plenum this transformation was linked with G. Zyuganov's likely defeat in the presidential election. It was as though they knew in advance! Criticism of the CPRF leadership by the "hard-liners" (for the "election campaign failure"), according to the analysts, will invariably lead to a change of party tactics and strategy.

Incidentally, party functionaries consider the abandonment of far left, extremist allies (Viktor Anpilov and his comrades) as "compensation" for Gennadiy Zyuganov's defeat. This is also indicative. Because on the contrary the party's reserves for its subsequent development are moderate Communist and patriotic figures such as S. Baburin, N. Ryzhkov, and so forth — those who are more customarily seen on the Duma rostrum than on the barricades with bullhorn in hand. And even though the CPRF is not going to stop emphasizing social problems together with traditional Soviet values, it will drift in the direction of a parliamentary type of party. Especially since God has ordered the CPRF to use its present position in the Duma. Because the idea of creating a parliamentary democratic majority is already tangible: Sergey Shakhray, Ivan Rybkin, and Boris Fedorov are urging this.

The renewed NDR is now going to have to make a major effort. Above all, it is going to have to make the national-state motif the dominant theme of its policy. It is indicative that the country's present leadership is moving in that direction, having ditched its romantic illusions about democracy during the years "in power."

The prospects facing the other players in present-day political life are unclear, to put it mildly. I believe that both the "diehard" and the "democratic" opposition (the Anpilov supporters, on the one hand, and the supporters of Yavlinskiy and the other democrats inside and outside the Duma, on the other) have been prepared for the role of "support groups" for the two main political teams. They will create the necessary "big game atmosphere" and mood by "warming up" the rivals. While having to be content, however, either with existing as small party groups or as public movements and fronts (along the lines of the National Salvation Front or the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms).

However distressing this may be for the democrats' leaders such as G. Yavlinskiy, Ye. Gaydar, or S. Fedorov (not to mention Boris Fedorov or I. Khakamada), the personal ideas which now form their entire political capital (like the ideas of people's self-government or purely economic innovations backed up by thoughts on the "pace of the reforms") can — and will! — be easily "digested" in the stomach of the two-party system. Thus there will be no independent place for them in this system, especially given that hardly anyone is going to be interested in their personal ambitions and claims. The "stomach" will digest them too.

That, in my view, is the preliminary breakdown and the forecast. If forecasts are possible at all in Russia today, of course. What I mean is that a certain pessimism is also an essential attribute of all political assessments in our country at the moment. We owe this situation largely to the fact that the old Soviet scale of values is discredited: But regrettable though it may be, the new democratic scale is also discredited! As a result such phenomena as social psychology, prejudices, and the population's feelings of nostalgia come into play — phenomena which do not lend themselves well to analysis...

Society, to put it another way, is open to sociopolitical demagoguery of both a right-wing and a left-wing type. But society itself in its present form is thus an extremely shaky foundation for normal political activity. And it tends to make politicians move away from insubstantial broad promises and commitments toward the "iron" arguments of open confrontation.

The following idea is encouraging. The Russian two-party system is now developing more or less naturally, reflecting in broad outline the true alignment of forces and opinions. Thus I hope that it will not prove to be a soap bubble — as happened, for example, with the artificially created "Ivan Rybkin Bloc." Because the evolutionary path of our political system's development — if it is maintained — will produce the desired result.

Russia: Paper Ponders Motives, Perpetrators of Moscow Terror Acts

MM1507151596 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 4

[Article by Zhanna Kasyanenko: "Random Explosions in the Mornings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When a criminal has not been caught, all you can do is construct possible scenarios and "calculate" his identity by applying logic. The first and most likely scenario is the Chechen connection. There are few Chechen leaders on Dudayev's side who have not at some stage threatened that Moscow will be reduced to the same state as that to which Groznyy, then Samashki, Pervomayskoye, and Shali, and now Gekhi have been reduced by Russian troops. This threat has been made by Basayev, Raduyev, and — when he was alive — Dzhokhar himself. It would be logical to assume (as the chairman of the Duma Security Committee, Viktor Ilyukhin, is assuming) that we should expect a counterreaction from Basayev, Maskhadov, and Yandarbiyev if the peace process has essentially been torpedoed. However, in the period between the two rounds of the presidential election the authorities were more concerned with "effective election moves" than with the state of citizens' security, so it is not surprising if possible terrorists could not be "exposed" and neutralized in time during cadre reshuffles in the power departments and a search for a latter-day State Committee for the State of Emergency.

Today, events in Chechnya are once again closed to the press and the public by virtue of the veil of secrecy that surrounds them and the ambiguous nature of the scant reports received. According to some information, approximately 300 civilians have been killed in Gekhi and the surrounding area. The military point to the particular ferocity of the separatists. With what could this new, even more violent spiral in the war and the presumed Chechen terrorism in Moscow be linked?

Why were the separatists silent before the elections and between the two rounds? Why did they allow the overwhelming majority of people in the republic to vote for Yeltsin (according to our information, they even insisted on this), whose name, as far as the Chechens are concerned, is associated with the war? How can you explain the fact that the Chechens (and almost every home is now in mourning) voted this way — almost 70 percent in favor of Yeltsin? Why should his reelection as president suddenly have the effect of an exploding bomb, when it all began with the bitterness of the first days of December 1994? There is no obvious answer. If there is an answer, it should be sought in the accords reached during Yandarbiyev's visit to the Kremlin. Which of the sides has not kept its word? It is perfectly possible that there were some hidden, secret terms — who was the first to break them? And what did these terms involve? There is no answer....

It is also hard to accept as a feasible scenario the claim by Moscow Mayor Luzhkov that the terrorist acts in the capital are the criminal world's reaction to the presidential edict on fighting crime in Moscow and Moscow Oblast. No one can fail to notice that this document aims to a significant extent to rid the capital of beggars and vagrants. It is simply impossible to imagine this rabble suddenly organizing themselves to plan acts of terrorism, particularly to such effect.

Large mafia structures? Not in our view because it would be like taking a sledgehammer to crack nuts. Moreover, they have quite different levers of influence on the political and criminal situation in the city, as many of their representatives are fairly securely built into the system.

No one can have failed to notice that the period both before and after the election was marked by illogical crimes that could not be explained from any standpoint. The terrorist act on the metro between Tulskaya and Nagatinskaya stations. Still unsolved and unexplained. The explosion outside the home of candidate vice mayor Shantsev.... The murder of the mayor of a small town outside Moscow the next day.... There are no obvious political motives, let alone commercial ones. Everyone now understands and has become used to showdowns among big-time financiers and bankers; they have become part of our everyday routine and can no longer shock the average person, who gets a "glow" in this case from the awareness that "it is nothing to do with us, ordinary mortals." You get the impression that the wave of terrorism is following a descending line: From high-ranking officials, including Chernomyrdin's personal physician, to ordinary people who, until now, had felt reasonably safe — at least in a large city in broad daylight. It is as if some unknown person has set himself the aim of breaking and intimidating the entire megalopolis and sending it scuttling for cover. But who? And why?

Russia: Witness to Planting of Moscow Bus Bomb Found

LD1707083496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Andrey Chitov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian security officer found an important eye witness of the explosion in a Moscow trolleybus. The witness saw how the explosive was planted, Federal Security Service director Nikolay Kovalev told Tass on Wednesday.

He gave no other details, but hinted that it would be anyway difficult to make the terrorists face trial.

"Successful investigating actions do not guarantee enough evidence which allows to submit a case to court. It remains to seize criminals red-handed", the minister said.

Kovalev rejected allegations that the terrorists spared people by planting explosives without a metallic coating and, therefore, without fragmentation. None of the passengers was killed in both explosions.

Kovalev said the terrorists were simply afraid that a metal bomb can be easily exposed. "It is quite easy to detect metal. And it is more difficult to carry it", he said.

Russia: Vice Premiers Contradict Each Other on Food Imports

LD1607165696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Itar-Tass) — Two Russian vice-premiers can found themselves at loggerhead over imposition of food import quotas.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Russian vice-premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha said that the Russian government may introduce quotas on some types of foods imported in the country in the near future.

The American side was informed of these plans at a meeting of the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission. According to Zaveryukha, import quotas will be imposed, above all, on dairy and meat products, sugar and vegetable oil.

Limitations may also affect the import of chicken legs. Sizes of quotas which will also cover countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, have been drafted with the participation of the Economics Ministry, Zaveryukha noted.

Earlier, the Russian government repeatedly stated that the introduction of quotas is regarded by it as an extreme measure which can be taken only in cases when the scale of import of some or other products and the price policy pursued by suppliers can be detrimental to the national economy.

On the other hand, another Russian vice-premier, Oleg Davydov, flatly refuted today press reports, transmitted with reference to Zaveryukha, on possible introduction of import quotas on some types of agricultural products. "No talks on this question were conducted at the ongoing Russian-American commission on economic and technological cooperation," Davydov stressed.

He noted that the government "does not intend to impose non-tariff limitations on trade with the United States."

Russia: SVR Releases Compact Disk on Agency's Current Makeup, History

MK1707114496 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "Compact Disk on Intelligence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A CD [-ROM] concerning the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia [SVR] of today as well as its history was unveiled yesterday at the SVR's reception house. Video excerpts on the CD contain narratives by members of the SVR directorate as well as of famous chiefs of stations and intelligence officers. For example, former Russian intelligence director Yevgeniy Primakov gives interesting facts concerning betrayal among SVR officers and the attitude toward them at the headquarters in Yasenevo. The structure of the SVR is described, and information is provided on some chiefs of the central apparatus directorates as well as on the most well-known agents. Lieutenant General Georgiy Rapota, deputy SVR director, unveiled the CD to the delegation of an intelligence service from Latin America that arrived in Moscow for a working visit.

Military Issues

Russia: Rodionov Appointed Defense Minister With Lebed Support

LD1707100096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Jul (Itar-Tass) — The 59-year-old Colonel General Igor Rodionov was appointed defense minister today by decree of the Russian president, an official spokesman of the head of state's press service told ITAR-TASS.

Lately, Igor Rodionov has headed the Academy of the General Staff. His candidature was actively supported by Aleksandr Lebed, aide to the Russian president for national security and secretary of the Russian Security Council.

Russia: New Defense Minister Rodionov Cites 'Hot Spots' as Priority

LD1707130696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1121 GMT 7 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Jul (Itar-Tass) — "After I am introduced tomorrow to the Defense Ministry collegium and supreme commanders in chief by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, I will deal above all with the hot spots where people are dying, the new defense minister, Colonel General Igor Rodionov said here today in his first interview with an ITAR-TASS observer after his appointment. He said "it will be necessary to elucidate the situations in Chechnya, Tajikistan, and Bosnia so as to take necessary measures."

Much will have to be done about reforms in the country and reform of the Russian Armed Forces. Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov believes that until now, "there has been no clearcut concept of reforms." It all comes down to the army and navy, although it is the business of the whole state to define the future of the Armed Forces and the strategy of national security.

"I am now getting ready to speak to my new subordinates. After a speech by the Russian president during the introduction, I must have my reply ready. I will try to be concise in defining the main tasks and to state that the honor of the Russian general is to selflessly serve his homeland and his people," Igor Rodionov stressed.

Russia: Rodionov Appointment 'Sure To Boost' Lebed Influence

LD1707104396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Aleksandr Nechayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian security supremo Aleksandr Lebed succeeded on Wednesday to push his protege to head the Defence ministry despite opposition from the entourage of ex-Defence minister Pavel Grachev.

Colonel General Igor Rodionov, 59, was appointed the Defence minister by a presidential decree today which is sure to boost the role and influence of Lebed in the Russian political elite.

After Lebed called Rodionov an "elite general", Grachev's entourage immediately recalled that he had commanded the Caucasian military district in 1988-1989 and was the military commandant of the Georgian capital of Tbilisi. It was in March 1989 that the troops of the military district crushed independence demonstrations in Tbilisi on orders of Soviet communist authorities in Moscow.

Besides, Rodionov was accused that under his command Soviet troops sustained most losses in the war in Afghanistan.

The war of words around the possible candidate for the post of the Defence minister fired back when general Lev Rokhlin accused the entourage of Grachev of corruption and openly backed Rodionov. He admitted that the main aim of his sensational revelations in the State Duma was not to allow Grachev's people to head the ministry.

Lebed did not conceal that Grachev had been dismissed by the president on his initiative. Following Grachev, Security minister Mikhail Barsukov and Yeltsin's influential security service head Aleksandr Korzhakov had to quit.

The post of the Defence minister was vacant for a month which, according to the Izvestiya newspaper, was the longest pause since 1802. Now the fight for the important position is over.

Rodionov is a career army officer. Born on December 1, 1936, he rose from a platoon commander to the Defence minister. He graduated from the Armoured troops Academy with a gold medal and then from the Academy of the General headquarters. Until his new appointment he headed the Academy of the General headquarters.

Both he and Lebed are Afghan war veterans.

Russia: Rodionov's Appointment Seen To Help Army's 'Crucial Reform'

LD1807112496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1107 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 17 (Interfax) — The nomination of Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov as the Russian defense minister will help crucial reform in the Russian armed forces, a source in the circle of Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed told Interfax Wednesday.

"It was Lebed who proposed to make Rodionov the defense minister. He thinks Gen. Rodionov is able to ensure order, take measures against corruption and modernize the armed forces," said the source.

Lebed thinks "the new minister is an elite, valiant and highly skilled general and an honest and decent person," noted the source.

Russia: Defense Ministry Submits Documents on Financing Problems

LD1607175896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Itar-Tass) — An extremely difficult financial situation has developed in the Russian Armed Forces over the past few months.

Itar-Tass learnt from Deputy Defence Minister Vladimir Toporov on Tuesday that the ministry sent a document to the Russian government on Monday [15 July], singling out in detail problems of financing the army.

He did not specify debts to the Defence Ministry for monetary allowance, utility services, purchases of new weapons and materiel, stressing that he "is an advocate of a joint search, together with the government, for ways out of the present situation and is sure of its solution in the near future."

The general expressed the hope that, despite the present reshuffling in the ministry, the government will find chances to settle problems of financing the army and the navy and will fulfill an instruction by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on priority payment of debts to the military.

The deputy minister reported that the allocated funds were enough to pay monetary allowances to graduates from all military educational establishments and to pay partially money to servicemen going on annual leave.

At the same time, Itar-Tass found out from conversations with Defence Ministry officials and representatives from arms and services that the central office of the ministry and departments of arms and services situated in Moscow have not received monetary allowance and other payments for June.

A similar situation is characteristic of most military districts and fleets.

Russia: Navy Reports Successful Test Launches of SLBMs

LD1607143896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — The Russian Navy carried out planned test launches of sea-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) from atomic submarines on June 28 and July 15. The crews of the submarines were finishing their combat training, Chief of the Russian Naval headquarters operations department Viktor Patrushev told Interfax in comment on exercises carried out by the North and Pacific Fleets.

Such launches take place approximately five to six times a year, he said. Their aim is to verify the combat-readiness of the missiles, to test new systems and to train the crews.

Two submarines of the Delta-III and Delta-IV class (NATO's classification), of the second and third generations respectively, took part in the combat training of the North Fleet.

The submarines, commanded by Captain First Class Sergey Gudkov and Captain First Class Nikolay Mastyaev, launched two SLBMs of the RSM-40 and RSM-54 types on July 15.

The warheads hit conditional targets in the waters of the Pacific Ocean and in Kamchatka with precision. Missiles stored for a long time were used for this launch.

The sea strategic nuclear forces were training new methods of combat control in interaction with other services of the Russian strategic nuclear forces and an anti-rocket surveillance system.

This is the second successful launch of SLBMs from Russian submarines over a short period of time.

Three submarines successfully launched three missiles from the waters of the Sea of Okhotsk on June 28 against a combat field situated in the northern European Russia.

These launches, carried out in the year of the 300th anniversary of the Russian Fleet, the 90th anniversary of Russia's submarine forces and on the eve of Navy Day, were planned checks of the country's strategic nuclear forces, the press center said.

Federal Assembly

Russia: List of Legislative, Regulatory Documents 7-13 Jul

96P50106A

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government Decrees Nos. 598, 651 Of 17 May, 6 June Respectively On: Statute For State Financing Of Measures To Restructure Coal Industry (300); Transforming

'Rossiyskaya Ugolnaya Kompaniya' State Enterprises Into Open-Type Joint-Stock Company With Same Name (300). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 4)

Government 21 May Decree No. 625 On Ensuring Representation Of State Interests On Management Organs Of Joint-Stock Companies Which Are Partly In Federal Ownership. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 9) (400)

Government 22 May Decree No. 629 On Procedure For Payment Of Profits Tax, Value-Added Tax, And Other Mandatory Budget Payments By Federal Railroad Transport Enterprises, Plus List Of Enterprises To Which It Applies. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 9) (800/400)

Government 6 June Decree No. 652 On Guarantees For Loans Given To Recipients Of State Budget Funds. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 8) (300)

Government 8 June Decree No. 659 On Measures To Implement Yeltsin Edict No. 598 Of 22 April On Measures To Improve The Economic Situation Of The Population And Other Consumers Of Russian Federation's Energy Resources. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (250)

Government 8 June Decree No. 661 On State Support For Socioeconomic Development Of Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug, Plus Commentary By A. Sharov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (200/550)

Government 8 June Directive No. 893 On Setting Up Nizhniy Novgorod-Based Directorate for Implementation Of 'Volga's Revival' Federal Targeted Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 1) (300)

Government 8 June Directive No. 895 Instructing Economy Ministry To Include Don Mining Company Mining And Enriching Combine In List Of Most Important Construction Projects And Instructing Finance Ministry To Provide Funding For Same. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (200)

Government 8 June Directive No. 897 Allocating R8.5 Billion Rubles To Pskov Oblast Administration From Budget To Compensate For Farmland, Forest Lost As Result Of Equipping Of Border. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (50)

Government 11 June Decree No. 677 On Measures To Implement Presidential Edict No. 166 Of 8 February On Improving The Management Of Nuclear Fuel Cycle Enterprises, Plus List Of Enterprises To Which It Applies. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 9) (700/200)

Government 13 June Decree No. 702 On Federal Targeted Program For Comprehensive Socioeconomic Development Of Krasnodar Kray In 1996-2000 Period. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (400)

Yeltsin 15 June Edict No. 910 On State Support For Socioeconomic Development Of Khakasia In 1997-2005. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 4) (400)

Government 17 June Decree No. 703 On State Support For Moskvich Joint Stock Company. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5) (70)

Government 18 June Decree No. 707 On Putting System Of Payment For Housing And Municipal Services Into Order, With Appended Statute On Procedure For Granting Citizens Subsidies For Payments For Housing And Municipal Services. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 6) (1300/1400)

RF Government 18 June Directive No. 939 Approving Proposal By Finance Ministry To Allocate R500 Million To All-Russia Council Of War And Labor Veterans. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 6) (100)

Government 21 June Decree No. 723 On Measures To Stabilize Economic Situation And Develop Reforms In Agro-Industrial Complex In Pursuance Of Yeltsin 16 April Edict No. 565. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (2500) (Text)

Government 24 June Decree No. 730 On Measures To Stabilize Supply Of Goods And Services To Rural Population. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (1000) (Text) (964E1781)

Government 24 June Decree No. 735 On Procedure For Conveyance Of Goods Living In Far North Through Russian Federation Customs Border. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5 (400)

Government 24 June Decree No. 737 On Setting Up 'Tyumen Oil Science And Technology Center' Open-Type Joint-Stock Company, List Of Founder Enterprises, And List Of Board Of Directors And Audit Commission. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 10) (800/200/400)

Government 24 June Directive No. 987 On Energy Pricing For Agricultural Commodity Producers In Accordance With Decree No. 723. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (200)

Government 24 June Directive No. 1000 Approving Proposal By Fuel And Energy Ministry And Tyumen Oblast Administration On Opening Up Oil Field In Oblast's South (Uvatskiy Project). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 10) (300)

Yeltsin 26 June Edict No. 993 Amending 6 February 1995 Edict No. 96 On Second Stage Of Privatization In Moscow (Amendment Tasks Government With Formulating Procedure For Directing Receipts From Privatization Of Moscow Enterprises 'Into The Reorganization And Recovery Of Other Enterprises In The City Of Moscow'). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 4) (140)

Government 27 June Decree No. 752 On State Support For Development Of Leasing Activity In Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5) (850)

Government 27 June Decree No. 759 Approving Appended Statute On Deals With Natural Precious Stones On Russian Federation Territory. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 9) (250/1500)

Government 27 June Decree No. 761 On Procedure For Relieving Contract Servicemen Working Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 6) (550) (Text)

Government 27 June Directive No. 1010 On Granting Of Fuels And Lubricants To Stavropol Kray As Exceptional Commodity Loan Against Budget Funds Due In Current Year For Building Great Stavropol Canal. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (50)

Government 27 June Directive No. 1011 On Allocation Of R48 Billion As Soft Loan To Budennovsk To Aid Production Facilities. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 1) (120)

Government 27 June Directive No. 1018 Instructing Finance Ministry To Provide Priority Finance For Repair And Restoration Of 7 Multistory Housing Blocks In Novgorod. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (100)

Government 27 June Directive No. 1020 On Granting R33.4 For Purpose Of Completing Phase One Of Nerpa Ship Repair Plant, Snezhnogorsk, Murmansk Oblast. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (50)

Government 29 June Directive No. 1025 Allocating R2 Billion To Chuvashia For Eliminating Aftermath Of 28 June Tornado. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (40)

Yeltsin 29 June Edict No. 1002 On Measures To Stabilize Economic Situation Of Fish Farms Which Are Part Of The Collective Fish Farm System (Extends Provisions Of 16 April Edict 565 On Agricultural Commodity Producers To Such Farms. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (300)

Government 1 July Decree No. 765 Extending Term Of Federal Ownership Of Alcohol Producing Enterprises, Plus List Of Such Enterprises. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 10) (100/400)

Government 1 July Decree No. 770 Approving Appended Statute On Licensing Development, Production, Sale, And Acquisition Of Special Technology Designed For Covert Acquisition Of Information, Plus List Of Categories Of Such Technology. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 10) (300/2500/200)

Government 1 July Directive No. 1034 Accepting Proposal By Russian State Committee For Management Of State Property Concerning Privatization Of Poisk Geological Enterprise In Partizansk, Maritime Kray. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5) (100)

Yeltsin 1 July Edict No. 1009 Reorganizing Federal Commission For Securities And The Stock Market Into Federal Commission For The Securities Market, Approving New Commission's Statute (To Be Published). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 4) (300). Statute Published. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 8) (2800)

Government 2 July Decree No. 783 On State Support Measures For Production And Leasing Of Tu-204 Aircraft. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (900)

Yeltsin 2 July Edict No. 1012 On Guarantees Of The Safe And Stable Operation Of Nuclear Power Engineering. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 4) (650) (Text)

Federal Law No. 87 Of 6 July On Procedure For Establishing Nominal Unit Liability Value Of Specified-Purpose Promissory Notes Issued In Pursuance Of Law On Restoring Citizens' Savings, Plus Velichenkov Commentary Arguing That It Shows Authorities Are Sticking To Their 'Social Protection' Promises Made

During Election Campaign. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 4) (1600/550)

Federal Law No. 88 Of 8 July On Federation Pension Fund Budget For 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 4) (1400)

Yeltsin 9 July Edict No. 1023 On Urgent Measures To Ensure Prompt Payment Of Pensions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 1) (400)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Yeltsin 29 April Directive No. 207 Expressing Gratitude To Personnel Of Presidential Regiment Of Moscow Kremlin Commandant's Office Under The RF Protection Main Directorate For Honorable Service And In Connection With Its 60th Anniversary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (100) (Text)

Government 8 May Directive No. 738 On Taking Up Investment Loan Offered By British Banks For Financing Production Equipment For Preparation Of Baby Food, With Commentary By G. Sazhinov, Head Of Russian Agriculture Ministry's Infant And Special Nutrition Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 4) (200/400)

Government 17 May Decree No. 606 Approving Agreement Between Russian Federation And IBRD On Loan For Financing Standardization Development Plus A. Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (450/550)

Yeltsin 7 June Edict No. 824 Approving Statute On RF President's Administration For State Awards, With Appended Statute. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (150/1600)

Yeltsin 13 June Edict No. 902 On RF Support For Integration Processes In Education Field In CIS. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (950)

Yeltsin 15 June Edict No. 909 Approving Blueprint For State Nationalities Policy Of Russian Federation, With Appended Blueprint. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 5) (150) (5500/Text)

Federal Law No. 77 Of 19 Jun Ratifying 3 February 1995 Agreement With Slovak Government On Cooperation In Developing RD-35 Aeroengine For Yak-130 Trainer. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (120)

Yeltsin 20 June Directive No. 330 Approving Initiative Of Pskov Oblast Administration On Celebrations To Mark 600th Anniversary Of Pskov Judicial Deed. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (150)

Yeltsin 20 June Edict No. 957 On Transformation Of Orel Branch Of Russian Academy Of State Service Under RF President Into Orel Regional Academy Of State Service As Part Of Russian Academy Of State Service Under RF President. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (400)

RF Constitutional Court 21 June Decree No. 15 Ruling On Constitutionality Of Article 20 Of Bashkortostan Law On Elections To Bashkortostan State Assembly. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 6) (3000)

Yeltsin 22 June Edict No. 980 On Interim Supervisory Commission For Observance Of Citizens' Constitutional Rights And Liberties. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (250) (Text)

Government 24 June Directive No. 989 Endorsing Proposal To Accept Turkish Eximbank Loan Toward Construction Of Khakassia University. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 1) (300)

RF Supreme Court 25 June Decree No. 4 On Implementation By Judges Of Decree Of Russian Federation Supreme Court Plenum Of 24 August 1993 On Deadlines For Examination Of Criminal And Civil Cases By RF Judges. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 6) (950)

Government Decrees Nos. 747, 763 Of 25 June, 29 June Respectively On: Signing Loan Agreement With IBRD To Finance Coal Industry's Restructuring (400); Approving Loan Agreement With IBRD (300). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 96 p 4)

Government 27 June Directive No. 1015 On Taking Up $41 Million Investment Loan Offered By Turkish Bank For Financing Building And Equipping Of No. 31 Moscow Clinical Hospital. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5) (110)

Yeltsin 1 July Directive No. 351 Approving Composition Of State Commission For Settlement Of Chechnya Crisis, With Appended List Of Members. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 5) (80/400) (Text)

Yeltsin 1 July Edict No. 1010 On Measures To Intensify State Support For Culture, Art. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (700)

Federal Law No. 84 Of 2 July Amending 1993 Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree On Procedure For Implementing Fundamentals Of Labor Protection Legislation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 3) (120) (Text)

RF Federal Law No. 85 Of 4 July On Participation In International Information Exchange. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 4) (3500) (Text)

Yeltsin 8 July Edict No. 1020 Renaming Kaliningrad In Moscow Oblast As Korolev. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 96 p 3) (30)

Set Of 5 RF Federal Laws Numbered Consecutively Nos. 89-93 Of 8 July Ratifying: Treaty With Danish Government On Protecting And Encouraging Capital Investment; Agreement On Setting Up Economic Union Interstate Economic Committee; Treaty On Deepening Economic Cooperation With Kazakhstan; Treaty With Slovak Government On Protecting And Encouraging Capital Investment; Agreement With Yugoslav Government On Protecting And Encouraging Capital Investment. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 4) (100 each)

SECTION III: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Government 12 April Decree No. 422 On Measures To Fulfill Federal Space Program And International Space Agreements, Plus Postscript Comprising Aleksandr Sharov Interview With Russian Space Agency General Director Yuriy Koptev. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 6) (1600/1300)

Government 23 April Decree No. 508 On Ensuring Stable Operation Of Satellite Communications System. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 6) (300) (Text)

Government 24 June Directive No. 981 Accepting Russian Space Agency Proposal For Joint Work With Aerospatiale And Ariane-Espace Firms On Launch Of Foreign Space Apparatuses Using Soyuz Rockets. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jul 96 p 5) (450) (Text)

Government 24 June Directive No. 996 Accepting Ministry Of Science And Technical Policy Proposal On Signing Protocol For Russian Scientific Organizations' Participation In Cern's 'Large Hadronic Collider' Project, Plus Valentinov, Gromov Article On Background To Particle Acceleration Research And Experiments. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 29) (100/1000)

RF Law No. 86 of 5 July And Signed By President Yeltsin 'On State Regulation In The Sphere Of Genetic Engineering Activity.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 4) (2500)

Russia: Budget Crisis Forces 'Dramatic Cutbacks' at State Duma

MK1707090196 Moscow THE MOSCOW TIMES in English 16 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Owen Matthews: "Deputies Deprived of Perks as Budget Woes Hit Duma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A financial crisis in the State Duma caused by a severe shortfall in government funding is forcing dramatic cutbacks.

"The situation is very simple. The Duma has no money," said Anna Ivanova, head of the Duma's financial administration.

In 1995, the last session of the Duma requested 759 billion rubles ($151 million) from the government to cover salaries, transport, maintenance of buildings and the expenses of the 500 deputies, but only 239 billion rubles were granted in the 1996 budget.

In the first half of 1996 only 106 billion rubles were actually paid, a shortfall of 12 percent on what was promised.

"The result [of the cuts] is that we go around on foot, don't make any telephone calls and don't pay our assistants," said Dmitriy Krasnikov, head of the Duma's organization committee.

"We are going to introduce a Western system," Krasnikov said. "The deputies will receive a certain sum, and they will decide themselves whether they arrive at work on the metro or in an imported car, whether they go on business trips every day or every month, and whether they need one assistant or 10."

At present, Duma deputies receive a salary of 837,000 rubles per month, and are officially banned from pursuing other business or professional activities while in office. Perks such as free international telephone calls, postage and cars have already been drastically reduced, said Krasnikov.

He denied that the squeeze had anything to do with tensions between the presidential administration and the Duma.

"We are in the same position [as] other government-funded bodies," said Krasnikov. "Only 26 percent of expected tax revenue was collected by the government in July, so there is very little money... We are trying to build capitalism, but on socialist principles."

Russia: 'Parliament Accord' Coalition Not Supported by Duma Deputies

LD1607132096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma has not supported the initiative of head of the Russia Is Our Home faction Sergey Belyayev to form a "parliament accord" coalition.

Belyayev sent an official letter to leaders of all deputy groups in the State Duma but the Communist faction in the middle of last week to ask about their attitude to the coalition. He thinks the coalition will help to make Duma law making more efficient through consensus on key problems. Parliament observers believe the real reason for the Belyayev initiative is to form a non-Communist majority in the State Duma.

Leader of the Liberal Democratic faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told Interfax he will inform Belyayev in writing they "are ready for cooperation with all political forces but will not join any coalitions."

Leader of the Popular Rule bloc Nikolay Ryzhkov told Interfax the bloc will not support Belyayev's proposal "because of radical political differences."

This is also the reason for refusal of Agrarian Party Chairman Mikhail Lapshin. He did not exclude in an Interfax interview "a very small part of Agrarian deputies can be won over by the Russia Is Our Home with either bribes or compromising materials."

Members of the Russian Regions deputy group differed in their opinions on the initiative and failed to take a coordinated decision.

A meeting of the Yabloko faction Tuesday will discuss the initiative of Belyayev together with other items on the agenda, sources told Interfax.

Russia: 'Our Home' Leader To Delay Issue of Replacing Duma Speaker

LD1707110596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 17 (INTERFAX) — It is inexpedient to raise the issue on replacement of State Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev (the Communist Party faction) for a politician more loyal to the Russian president before confirmation of the prime minister, leader of the Russia Is Our Home faction Sergey Belyayev told journalists Wednesday.

This issue may be raised again this autumn after the parliamentary vacations, he said.

"If we raise this issue now we may get nothing but exhaust smoke," and additionally consolidate "pro-Communist factions," he said.

Russia: Duma Proposes Nationalizing Russia's Public TV Company

LD1707103796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0910 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 17 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma has proposed to transform the ORT Russian Public Television Company from a closed joint stock company into a state-owned TV company.

A resolution to the effect was approved on the whole by 261 deputies Wednesday.

The law makers think "public TV took the side of the president and the government and distorted to the maximum activities of the Russian opposition."

"The company creates an impression the opposition is a bunch of idlers incapable of upright deeds," said member of the Liberal Democratic faction Oleg Finko, who presented the draft resolution.

"The more the company praises the deeds of the authorities and hushes up mistakes and corruption in high places, the worse it is for society," said the law makers. That is why the company must be turned into a state channel.

Liberal Democratic leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy proposed that broadcast time be shared equally between the president, the government and the parliament.

The deputies think that the company has failed to achieve a goal set by the president and the parliament — to take less money from the federal budget. "The company's founders have failed to make an efficient mechanism for off-budget investments, and the government has failed to ensure reliable control over the 51 percent of company shares it has," they said.

The proposal to transform the company was supported by the Communist and Liberal Democratic factions, the Agrarian group and the Popular Rule bloc. The Yabloko faction suggested a public discussion of the possibility to change the legal status of ORT, but this proposal was not supported by the majority of law makers. The Our Home is Russia faction voted against the resolution.

The law makers approved on the whole a resolution on unsatisfactory financing of Russian mass media (241 voted for) and offered the Russian government to instruct the Ministry of Finance to provide for full financing of mass media at an amount ensured by the budget. The deputies noted the critical condition of mass media's technical base, especially at regional TV and radio companies.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Chernomyrdin Cited on Efforts To Halt Chechnya Conflict

LD1607154696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — The Russian leadership intends to stop the conflict in the Chechen republic, therefore the process of negotiations will be continued, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a press conference in Moscow Tuesday.

The forces of the Defense Ministry will be withdrawn from Chechnya, he said. Only detachments of the Interior Ministry and units which are permanently stationed in the republic will remain there.

"Where terror is involved, it will be persecuted," he said. There is a long way to go to optimism in Chechnya, Chernomyrdin said.

He expressed regret that the cease-fire agreements in Chechnya had been violated and confirmed that President Boris Yeltsin and the government intend to do their best for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Russia: Negotiator Interviewed on Premier's Chechnya Commission

MK1707114796 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 1

[Interview with Vladimir Zorin by Aleksandr Belonovskiy: "Vladimir Zorin: 'Boys Who Die From Bullets Are Not To Blame for the Errors of Politicians'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The commission on the settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic under Viktor Chernomyrdin will meet this week for the first time after the resumption of active combat operations in Chechnya. Naturally, more than enough reasons for calling the commission have piled up — along with the questions to be discussed there.

Your MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent met with a member of this commission, Vladimir Zorin, deputy head of our delegation at the talks with the separatists.

[Belonovskiy] Vladimir Yuryevich [Zorin], one of the main questions to be discussed is the wave of terrorist acts that has swept Moscow. There have been rumors about the presence of a Chechen trace here. Can this be true?

[Zorin] These are acts of vandalism that are worthy of the sharpest condemnation and the most effective and appropriate actions to stave them off. As for the notorious Chechen trace, I am prepared to consider this as one of the versions, but, as far as I know, there is as yet no irrefutable evidence. It is easy to advance an accusation on the basis of emotion. But, like in politics, in investigation there should be only fact and proof. One cannot collapse into hysterics and unjustly accuse an entire people. Sad as it is, terrorism has become an everyday occurrence in many countries. There are no bad peoples; there are bad people.

[Belonovskiy] Still, what is the reason for the resumption of combat operations after a month and a half lull?

[Zorin] The delegation we were meeting with for talks did not take any real steps to carry out the signed accords. To give an example: The protocol provided for the exchange of information on the zones of troop interaction. Roughly speaking, which village has whose troops, who commands them and how to contact them. Even this simple work was not done. As soon as the protocols were signed there were kidnappings and the taking of hostages — even shooting them dead. All these things do not contribute to peace.

The question remains open as to what extent Yandarbiyev and Maskhadov actually influence the situation. We have the impression that they themselves do not know this. The process of the organization of power begun after Dudayev's death is not over; it is continuing. Far from all of the field commanders agree with the current pattern of leadership. Therefore they act as they see fit, without any consultations with anybody.

[Belonovskiy] And yet, who started it this time around?

[Zorin] I can only give facts. The withdrawal of the 245th regiment, the president's edict on the withdrawal of the temporary group of forces.... We followed the signed accords to the end.

[Belonovskiy] Well, should there be any talks at all? Is the military people's approach more logical?

[Belonovskiy] I personally have been and am a consistent proponent of an amicable settlement. Talks can and should be continued because this conflict is not so much military as it is legal and political. As for the military operations, they are only the consequence of the fact that politicians have so far failed to agree.

To my mind, it is already clear even to an outsider that there is no military solution to the conflict. Those who do not realize this will be left on the side of the big-time political road.

[Belonovskiy] What decision is the commission going to make?

[Zorin] I cannot take it upon myself to speak on behalf of all its members. At any rate, all these developments have created a qualitatively new situation. But the strategy of the federal center will hardly alter. There will of course be new tactical approaches.

The talks will be continued. But the center of gravity could be shifted to some other rayons, to other people who enjoy greater influence in the localities. As for fighting, it is stupid and it has no prospects. The boys who die from the bullets are not to blame for the errors of politicians.

Russia: Kulikov Says Separatists Out of Control in Chechnya

LD1707092496 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 17 Jul 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] We will now show you pictures we received from the southern areas of Chechnya.

[Correspondent Roman Perevezentsev] The events in Chechnya's southern mountainous region of Chechnya Vedeno over the past few days have become the second most important after the special operation in the village of Gekhi. Our film crew today visited the concentrated locations of Makhkety, Khatuny and Kirov-Yurta. From higher ground no particular signs of destruction in these populated areas could be seen. The separatists have altered their tactic of basing and prefer to set up bases not in the villages themselves but a short distance away, in the woods.

A center for the training of fighters in sabotage and firing has been organized here. According to a subunit commander, about 100 men dressed in the uniform of Afghan mercenaries were discovered. Those officers who had fought in Afghanistan are inclined to believe that these are reinforcements from abroad.

The mountain rivers have dried up in the heat, which is unprecedented even by local standards. This enables armed opposition detachments to move along their channels on cross-country vehicles.

The federal troop command, which is based here, decided to destroy all UAZes, Nivas, and trucks.

[Unidentified officer in combat gear] "About 50 vehicles have virtually been destroyed in about two days, and everything in the storage bases and field camps alongside has also been destroyed."

[Perevezentsev] It is believed that there are no fighters in the villages, but when an armored convoy moved along the foothills at night, one serviceman was killed and two were wounded.

[Correspondent Vladimir Solovyev] [Interior Minister] Anatoliy Kulikov, who has returned from Chechnya, believes that it would be premature to withdraw the federal troops from the Chechen Republic in the present situation. The minister's firm stand is based on a gloomy statistic.

[Kulikov] "Since the signing of the agreement on a cessation of hostilities, 73 members of the federal troops have been killed and 380 wounded as a result of armed attacks. This is more than occurred during active combat operations."

[Solovyev] The separatists have now given up their positions and have switched to criminal political terror against the legitimate authorities, the minister stressed. Testimony to this are the kidnapping of members of the authority, demands for their redemption, and the cruel murder of Russian-speaking inhabitants of Chechnya.

[Kulikov] "This is savagery right out of the middle ages, which is occurring today and we are trying to sit down with them and conduct some kind of civilized talks."

[Solovyev] According to Kulikov, the Chechen field commanders Gelayev, Basayev, and Zamayev are now out of the control of Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff of the armed formation of separatists, and are engaged in banditry.

[Kulikov] "The toughest measures to wipe out the irreconcilable gangs, which are made up of mercenaries, Islamic fanatics, and also criminals must be taken. They will not lay down their arms under any conditions, and their very existence is a constant and extremely dangerous source of terrorism."

[Solovyev] At the same time Kulikov noted that it was a question of criminals and not the whole Chechen people. [video shows helicopters, armored vehicles and trucks, aerial view of locality, troops on patrol, artillery firing, diagrams of hand grenades, officer being interviewed, convoy of armored vehicles, Interior Ministry entrance and Kulikov giving news conference]

Russia: Chechen Separatists Meet on Response to Federal Attacks

LD1607180896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is chairing a meeting, held in an unspecified location in Chechnya, of the so-called State Defense Committee of Chechen Republic-Ichkeria.

Movladiy Udugov, a spokesman for the separatists, told Interfax that the meeting is being attended by separatist military chief Aslan Maskhadov, all senior field commanders and government ministers.

The meeting is considering the proposal made by Maskhadov that large-scale actions in response to federal attacks should not be mounted and political means of resolving the conflict should be exploited to the full. The meeting is also considering a proposal made by field commanders Shamil Basayev and Ruslan Gelayev, who want to respond with what they describe as "pinpoint strikes at vital installations inside the Russian Federation," Udugov said

Yandarbiyev seems to support Maskhadov, he said.

The meeting is expected to end Wednesday.

The Chechen separatist military headquarters says that hostilities were under way in the Nozhai-Yurt district, where separatist positions have come under heavy artillery, rocket and air strikes Tuesday. The village of Vedeno and numerous locations in the Itum-Kale, Shatoi and Gudermes districts were also shelled.

A pitched battle took place near the village of Novogroznesky, the headquarters says.

Russia: Chechnya Arms Deals Reported

LD1607213896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 96

[Video report by correspondent Aleksandr Barkhatov — from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The arms confiscated during the recent operation [in Moscow] are no doubt just a drop in the ocean. Estimates of the number of weapons in private hands make harrowing reading. Where did such numbers come from? The war that has been dragging on for a year and a half now accounts for quite a lot, if not for everything. Aleksandr Barkhatov reports.

[Barkhatov] Three thousand firearms of, shall we say, Chechen origin, have been reported as missing as a result of nearly two years of the campaign in the Caucasus. Assault rifles, pistols, grenade launchers — according to the military prosecutor's office in Groznyy, the numbers stolen from the army and the internal troops alone ...

[Unidentified man in camouflage, standing by a map] ... comes to about 500 throughout the period of hostilities.

[Barkhatov] Forty people have been convicted for these offenses. These are just figures. But the phenomenon of lost and stolen weapons attracts conflicting comments.

[Unidentified man in major general's uniform, speaking in an office setting] In all the criminal cases investigated in the Chechen Republic by the officers of our military prosecutor's office we have not established a single instance of weapons having been sold to [separatist] fighters. They are sometimes sold to the local people though.

[Barkhatov] While in Chechnya, we also had an opportunity to address the same question to a local man, not someone from outside.

[Unidentified Chechen gunman, interviewed in a glade] We had Lieutenant Colonel [bleep], who was stationed near the village of Goyskoye in May last year. We took 10 from him, for $3,000 each.

[Barkhatov, to the gunman] Ten of these sophisticated sniper rifles?

[Gunman] Yes.

[Barkhatov] We will not try and resolve the philosophical niceties concerning distinctions between local people and fighters. Even lawyers would be hard pressed to do that. But back to the ways in which weapons go missing — weapons which the military prosecutor's office indeed works hard to track down. It all begins with those very contacts with the locals.

[First serviceman, back to the camera, interviewed in an office] I was patrolling the area with a dog. They came up to ask about puppies. Then they pressed me to sell them some arms. Well, I agreed. We decided to share the 2 million. It is article 218-1, part 1 [as heard].

[Barkhatov, to serviceman] Why did you write that on your hand — part 2, article, as a crib?

[Serviceman] I just could not remember it.

[Barkhatov] The next story does not fit the academic view of the army either. But even at a risk of casting a shadow on the vast majority of soldiers, who are loyal to the oath and know the price of blood, it cannot, alas, be called a hideous exception. The gist of it is that a certain fighting vehicle crew had a bit too much to drink between the three of them. The locals offered them some vodka right at the checkpoint. The fully equipped infantry fighting vehicle was then taken for a walk in the village — and was captured without a single shot.

[Second serviceman, back to camera, interviewed in the same office] We just had a bit too much to drink. The mechanic kind of went mad.

[Barkhatov] No doubt a black eye the lad has already been given by a fellow soldier won't be the end of it for him. But — and here is another Chechen paradox — military prosecutors have very few legal foundations to ask for a severe punishment. This is what it sounds like in legalese:

[Unidentified major general] Since we are not waging war in Chechnya, we do not apply the law on criminal responsibility for crimes committed in war and in combat.

[Barkhatov] Well, our recent history has already seen an undeclared war. But even more bitter is the ambiguous term that has already come to Chechnya — it's called a commercial war.

It would, of course, be absurd to say that all the weapons in tha hands of Dudayev's opposition have come from the army. And if, as has happened already, reports speak of ultra-modern hardware discovered in the mountains, the news should be treated in context: The army has yet to acquire equipment of that sort. This means there is another source, much more mysterious and serious, which has to be discussed separately. [video showed firearms and ammunition, armored vehicles, soldiers in the field, in a compound and in barracks; street scenes, various interviews]

Russia: Tensions on Dagestan-Chechen Border Viewed

MM1707103296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Gunmen's Path Through Pass Blocked. Report by IZVESTIYA Correspondent Nikolay Gritchin from Dagestan Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mountains of Dagestan — "We stick in the Dudayevites' craw," was how Major Aleksey Orlov, chief of the Zheleznovodsk Special-Purpose Border Detachment, explained the situation. "Because of us they have been forced to seek other ways of getting weapons into Chechnya."

The detachment arrived in the mountains of Dagestan just over a year ago, setting up posts on the main roads from the Chechen Republic's Vedenskiy and Cheberloyevskiy Rayons through Dagestan to Georgia. And it was immediately noted in combat reports.

One of the border guards' first battles was at the Ziberkhali mountain border post, which shelters on the mountainside at 2,100 meters above sea level. On the map the village appears as the "ruins of Ziberkhali," even though there are a dozen homes there and a small mosque is even being built. During the Budennovsk tragedy there was a real war going on here. Attacked simultaneously from the Chechen ridge and from the rear, where the gunmen used a herd of cows for cover to creep right up to the border positions, the border post was surrounded. It was only at dawn on the following day, when a convoy and helicopters arrived to help the besieged border guards, that the gunmen retreated.

Today the border post is named for Ilyas Asadulin, one of the four men killed in that fierce battle. The Chechen gunmen lost around 10 men. Since then they have not repeated their attempt to seize the border guards' positions. The border post is firmly dug in, they have perimeter defenses and have been reinforced. A month ago the top of the mountain ridge, from where the gunmen had fired on the border post, was taken under control by a highly maneuverable motorized group of border guards from Karelia.

The subject of the "conquest" of this peak sheds light on some difficult aspects of border service on the administrative borders with Chechnya. Last spring one of the Zheleznovodsk Detachment's border posts was deployed above the Andi village of Ansalt. This produced a storm of protest from the people of Ansalt. The border post had to be hurriedly removed and the border guards were transferred to the top of the ridge. Intelligence believes that the popular discontent was skillfully whipped up by Chechens from "abroad." But the "compromise" option chosen by the border guards turned out to be worse for the gunmen because the "green caps" are now just a stone's throw away from part of Chechnya's Cheberloyevskiy Rayon, where considerable forces of hardliners are concentrated (according to intelligence estimates there are around 300 of them in the border zone). Representatives of the gunmen have already held talks, proposing that the summit revert to its former "neutral" status, promising to convince the people of Ansalt, and even threatening the border guards. The shelling of border posts and attempts by gunmen to break through major roads are routine in this area.

The border guards are directly linking the strengthening of their control over roads in the mountains of Dagestan to the recent complications in the steppe area of the republic, where there are increasingly frequent cases of weapons and ammunition being transported, and policemen who try to impound criminal cargoes are taken hostage.

Incidentally, Major General Aleksandr Danilenko, deputy commander of the Caucasus Special Border District and chief of the "Makhachkala" Military Operations Section, considers high mountain routes to be the most likely channels by which weapons are supplied to the Chechen gunmen. Despite the increased number of posts and border detachments, there is no classic border on this stretch.

...I asked Ziberkhali resident Gadzhi Osmanov where his family's income came from. After all, there are no agricultural enterprises or any businesses in the village. Gadzhi said that his sole source of income is child benefit, which comes to just over 100,000 rubles. He pins all his hopes on his private plot. In this and nearby settlements people keep lots of livestock. Winter feed is procured on the other side of the mountains — on the Chechen side, where there are abundant grass crops. Local peasants usually come to an agreement with the Chechens on the terms of the haymaking and pay for every machine used.

What will be the terms for haymaking this year?

Russia: Maritime Energy Crisis Poses Threat to National Security

LD1707094096 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0815 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The energy crisis in Maritime Territory is posing a threat to Russia's national security, a letter of the regional administration to Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Security Council says. Power cuts now go on for as long as 18 out of 24 hours, Irina Shumayeva, a member of the press department staff of the regional administration told our radio station.

[Begin Shumayeva recording] The operation of the Maritime power plant is in the process of being halted. The remaining fuel at TETs-2 and the Artemovskaya power plant will be spent in the next two or three days. These developments will bring local and power-driven transport in Vladivostok to a standstill. As of today Nakhodka's waterworks no longer operate. The health of that city's residents is in danger. The 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil, which is now being sent down the Transbaykal railway to Maritime Territory will be enough for two or three days. Residents in the region may find themselves without electricity at any time between 0700 and midnight. This is in fact how things are now with us. There are cuts in water supplies as well. Today (?power) has been cut off in maternity wards and hospitals and the orphanage was without electricity and hot food all day yesterday. We still hope that the government will help us somehow. Our regional administration has sent a letter to Lebed, urging him to help us. After all, this situation whereby we have no electricity for 18 hours a day poses security problems. [end recording]

According to the latest information, the Maritime region power plant that provides most of the region's consumers has now been fully stopped. At the same time, according to the region's deputy governor Valentin Dubinin, despite enormous difficulties, electricity has not been cut off at submarine bases, air defense command centers, and operating theaters at hospitals and maternity wards.

The president of the Russian national power grid joint-stock company has said the regional authorities are to blame for this situation, as they placed the issue of electricity tariffs at the center of their preelection flirtation with the electorate. Dyakov spoke at a regional conference of power engineers in Khabarovsk. The conference noted that the situation with electricity is very complex across the Far East as a whole. As a result of nonpayments, there are power cuts in the whole of the Far East, albeit not on such a catastrophic scale as in Maritime region.

Russia: City in Chelyabinsk Oblast Declared 'Environmental Disaster'

MM1607130096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unique Nature of Karabash Horrifies Inhabitants"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plant-city of Karabash in Chelyabinsk Oblast has been awarded environmental disaster area status. This city, described as a "world black spot," is the only one in Russia to receive this awful title as a result of a State Environmental Appraisal, the YeAN agency reports. The closure of the giant copper smelting plant has not improved the state of the atmosphere and water. But the closure of the combine has caused unemployment. Last year alone 1,000 people left Karabash, unable to find work. This year the first money is to come from the federal Ecological Fund to provide medical assistance for the population.

Russia: Commander Denies Defenses on Chinese Border Down

LD1707120496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, July 17 (Interfax-Eurasia) — The commander of the Pacific border guard district, Vitaliy Sedykh, officially denied media reports alleging that the defenses on the Chinese border are down because of power cut-offs.

In an interview with Interfax-Eurasia on Wednesday, Sedykh described reports as "stupid," saying that energy cut-offs cannot affect the security system on the border as it gets power from autonomous sources.

"There have been no disruptions in the work of the security system in our section of the border," he added.

He also expressed strong dissatisfaction with energy supplies to industrial and household users in the region.

Earlier, the Pacific fleet and the administration of the Maritime Territory have denied media reports about energy cut-offs to a number of strategic navy facilities and hospitals.

They stressed that cutting off power to a navy school and cutting off power to navy or air defense command posts are not the same thing, adding that the latter are not subject to such measures.

Economic Issues

Russia: Shokhin on Economic Tasks After Elections

MM1607164096 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Jul 96 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Aleksandr Shokhin, first vice speaker of the State Duma, by Nikolay Tsvetkov under the "Absolutely Qualified" rubric prepared jointly with the Moscow office of the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI; place and date not given: "Aleksandr Shokhin: $20 Billion 'Under Starters' Orders'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] My conversation with Aleksandr Shokhin, first vice speaker of the State Duma, took place before 3 July. However, he had no doubt as to the outcome of the presidential election's final round. Therefore I conducted the interview on the basis that Boris Yeltsin's reelection was a fait accompli.

[Tsvetkov] What now lies in store for the Russian economy?

[Shokhin] There will, of course, be no sudden changes in the economy the day after the election. Moreover, in the last few months a series of negative trends have been observed in the economy alongside the positive ones. On the one hand, there is the extremely low inflation rate, standing at 1.2 percent in June. On the other hand, the fiscal system is at present not in the best possible condition and the financial markets are tense. The low tax collection rate is a clear reflection of the situation prior to the election, with the authorities afraid to apply a great deal of pressure and taxpayers taking advantage of the opportunity not to pay. Owing to this, the state is borrowing a lot of money in the financial market through the sale of short-term state bonds and is thereby inflating interest rates for these state securities. Inflation stands at 1.2 percent, but the return on securities is 8-9 percent per month. There is a clear imbalance between these rates.

After the election the president and government will have to balance the financial and economic systems. While keeping inflation low, it will be necessary to sharply reduce the return on state securities. The simplest way of doing this is to abandon large-scale borrowing in the domestic market by increasing the tax collection rate.

It is essential that sanctions against tax defaulters be made harsher, but this should clearly be combined with a reduction of the tax burden. After all, enterprises have gotten used to not paying a substantial proportion of their taxes and use this money for current expenditure. If the state is very rigid in its demands for the payment of all taxes they will end up in a difficult financial position. A compromise solution is to increase the penalties — and this must be done so that each participant in the economy is law-abiding — and at the same time lower the tax rates, thereby increasing the amount of taxes the budget receives.

[Tsvetkov] In your view by how much will the tax rates be lowered?

[Shokhin] First the number of taxes will have to be reduced several times over. There are now around 150 of them at all levels. But there will be a maximum of 20 to 30. The system of taxes will become more comprehensible. Tax rate reduction should be a function of the current level of tax collection. At present it is in the region of 55-60 percent. Having adopted a definite position with regard to taxes, it is then possible to stand firm and ask for every last kopek.

But the most important point is that tax receipts depend on the dynamics of production. Therefore the authorities' most important task after the election is to revitalize investment. We have great hopes that there will be an influx of foreign investment. Several estimates indicate that around $20 billion are, as they say, "under starters' orders" and just waiting for a positive outcome to our election.

The following factors are necessary to implement these plans for investment in the Russian economy. First, political stability. Second, a stable legislative base for investment. We are at present putting the finishing touches to a system of laws for foreign investments.

[Tsvetkov] Are these laws ready yet?

[Shokhin] The basic law on the division of output produced as a result of investments is ready, but a whole series of additional laws are under discussion in the Duma.

Incidentally, a normal system of taxes should in itself stimulate investment. The state of our economy is now more or less favorable, and according to forecasts we will reach so-called zero economic growth by the end of 1996, that is, the decline will stop.

[Tsvetkov] Will Boris Yeltsin have to go back on a number of his financial obligations to the electorate after the election?

[Shokhin] This is unlikely. I must emphasize the fact that all his obligations are written into the law on the budget, in its expenditure component. It is another matter that the budget's income component is only being 70 percent implemented. Moreover, after the election the president will be forced to see about implementing the budget's income component. From a political point of view, he will get an opportunity to "squeeze" the economy and force taxes out of it.

[Tsvetkov] But, you see, if, as you mentioned, the tax rates are lowered and the tax collection rate might increase, will the receipts remain in absolute terms at their previous level and in consequence the budget shortfall continue?

[Shokhin] Yes, but on the other hand a moral right will emerge to bring pressure to bear and to "make heads roll" among tax defaulters. At present, it is in all only possible to check the top 700 taxpayers. We can see what is going on in the major enterprises, they are monitored and pay for everybody. The small business sector is another matter again. It should, in my opinion, not pay taxes at all but should purchase a trading license once a year. In short, there should be a combination of "carrot and stick." People should feel that it is more to their advantage to pay taxes than to avoid paying them.

[Tsvetkov] The Russian market is awash with imported goods. Do you not think that in order to revitalize domestic production imports should somehow be restricted? For instance, food imports.

[Shokhin] Recently quite a few statements have been made on behalf of the government, in particular by Mr. Zaveryukha, who has responsibility for agriculture, to the effect that quotas — that is quantitative restrictions — will be introduced for imports. But wherever you have quotas you also have corruption. In any country. It is necessary to regulate them not by quotas but, for example, by the ruble exchange rate. At present the exchange rate patently stimulates imports and restrains exports. After the introduction of the foreign currency "corridor," a gap developed between the ruble exchange rate and the rate of inflation. Now it is necessary to at least tie changes in the exchange rate to the rate of inflation. The Central Bank can do this fairly easily.

[Tsvetkov] What would be the optimum ruble exchange rate?

[Shokhin] I am not talking here about an optimum exchange rate. I am talking about the fact that any change in this exchange rate should be correlated strictly with the rate of inflation. What happened last year cannot be permitted: The exchange rate stayed put while inflation was 4-5 percent per month. If the authorities set themselves the task of strengthening exports and thereby stabilizing the economy, a one-shot reduction of the ruble exchange rate is possible. Though this is in the realm of hypotheses.

What is most important is that the exchange rate becomes more realistic than in 1995 when the "corridor" was introduced. While this will not enable a restriction of imports it will at least not give them a chance to expand into Russia. As concerns the protection of our market, I would propose that quantitative restrictions are introduced in the most extreme circumstances. We would thus use those methods that are used in the EU, Japan, and the United States. When they sense there is a threat to the domestic producer they bring in protective duties which are, for example, double the norm. I consider that certain goods are imported into Russia at dumping prices. Anti-dumping duties should be introduced to counter this. One other possible measure would be to ban imports for public health reasons.

In short, we have the following scheme: The national market must be protected, but only using civilized methods.

[Tsvetkov] So in this way protectionist steps are essential?

[Shokhin] Moderately protectionist steps. The Russian economy was a closed economy. Of course to open it up all at once means to "close it down" immediately, that is, to destroy it. What we need is the ideology of an economy that is getting back on its feet. We should tell the peasants and industrialists that in five years' time all the protective barriers will be gradually removed. Prepare yourselves for this situation. The same can be said to investors: In five years' time the foreign investor will enjoy the same rights as the domestic investor. Prepare yourselves and quickly.

[Tsvetkov] But will it perhaps be possible in some sectors to dispense with protectionism even of a moderate kind?

[Shokhin] I have not been speaking in general terms. But it is clear now that agriculture cannot do without protection. Opening it up entails not only economic but also great social problems. Is it, to take another example, expedient for Russia to set up a components base for the electronics industry? Maybe it would be simpler to go along the path of assembling competitive electronic devices from imported components? Each sector needs a development strategy. Unfortunately, there is no such strategy at present.

We cannot, of course, retain everything from our once self- sufficient economy. But we cannot give up certain things for various reasons, including those of national security. Russia will for example continue to produce the most up-to-date types of weaponry and will accordingly support the necessary technological base for this. President B. Yeltsin recently attended the launching in St. Petersburg of the guided missile cruiser Petr Velikiy. In order to keep this cruiser in normal working order, 100 institutes and enterprises have to swing into action.

Also take the example of the aviation industry. We have dozens of aviation plants. Hundreds of thousands of people are "tied" to them. We will simply be forced to make their output competitive.

[Tsvetkov] Can we conclude that you are sympathetic to calls for strengthening state control over the economy?

[Shokhin] You can interpret the strengthening of state control in various ways. I set out my principles for this a year ago in the "Russia Is Our Home" movement's program. The state should be involved in the economy so that contracts are honored, market laws become established, and the rights of players in the market are protected . This is not the same as strengthening state regulation through fixed prices or a large volume of state orders.

Russia: Government Proposes 'Amnesty' for Tax Arrears

MM1607160696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Podymov: "A Voluntary Confession Will Make Things Easier for You. If the State Duma Adopts the Government's Proposed Law 'On a Tax Amnesty' the Treasury Can Expect Substantial Revenue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 12 July the government submitted to the State Duma a draft federal law "On Holding a Tax Amnesty in 1996." Under the draft law all enterprises, irrespective of the form of ownership, will be granted the right to voluntarily declare before 1 September money owed to federal and regional budgets that has not been identified by the tax organs. The enterprises would then be exempt from payment of all types of penalties and charges irrespective of when the payments should have been made.

It is expected that the terms of the new amnesty will be markedly different from those of the previous similar campaign, in which there were serious problems connected with determining the size of the taxable base and corresponding size of payments. This time the amount of unpaid taxes will be determined after an audit and will be pegged to the actual date of nonpayment.

Under the draft, enterprises that have voluntarily declared nonpayments will have to settle before 31 December 1996. But this date could change depending on when the Duma adopts the law. But "nonpayers" will have yet another chance to extent the term of payment. They will be entitled to come to an agreement with the tax organs on the form and date for settling with the budget. Moreover, for the duration of the agreement taxpayers will be exempt from tax organs' checks.

If the tax authorities' discover nonpayments after the term of "declaration" has expired, those who have willfully avoided paying tax will face a penalty that is 50 percent higher than the usual one. According to Finance Ministry specialists, the new tax amnesty will certainly encourage a number of taxpayers to want to settle with the budget and avoid the consequences. But they would not stick their necks out and forecast how much revenue it would mean for the treasury.

Russia: Chubays Expected To Work Well With Government on Economy

MK1707114696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 1-2

[Report by Tatyana Koshkareva and Rustam Narzikulov: "What Can Be Expected From Chubays' Arrival in the Kremlin. The New Chief of the Presidential Staff Will Not Try To Take Control of the Government, but He Will Find Other Leverage To Influence the Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Chubays and Chernomyrdin

Conflicts can hardly be expected in the relations between the new chief of the presidential staff and Viktor Chernomyrdin, even given Chubays' ambitions as an economist. Optimists among political scholars would be entitled to say that, on the contrary, the government only stands to benefit from the prime minister's ability to assimilate unexpected economic ideas, including those of Chubays.

The former deputy prime minister has come to be perceived as a stopgap who is no theoretical genius, but who helps to resolve day-to-day problems — raising, for instance, the level of tax collection from the current 55-60 percent. How Chubays is going to achieve that (by calling on enterprises in an armored tax train or by introducing three-member court-martials) no one knows, but somehow there is universal assurance that, should he be given a fiscal assignment, he will be up to the task.

The chief of staff is no dogmatist, and he is unlikely to forgo the practical realization of an idea he likes only because it does not fit into the framework of a standard macroeconomic blueprint. For instance, if Anatoliy Chubays decides that it is preferable to sacrifice a few percentages of inflation (let it be 3-4 percent a month, not 1 percent) for the sake of "a production upswing," it is quite possible that the prime minister will go along with him.

Chubays the economist has something to rely upon even in such an utterly uneconomic institution as the presidential staff. Recently the State Committee on Anti-Monopoly Policy and Entrepreneurship and the Federal Commission on Securities were subordinated directly to the president. These government agencies are not yet seen as omnipotent economic institutions, but the chief of staff is known precisely for his ability to boost the clout of agencies subordinate to him.

In this regard it would be pertinent to recall also the currently forgotten Federal Energy Commission, whose creation last year raised in earnest the question of redistributing the authority of managing oil and gas companies in its favor. The commission and its chairman, Chubays, were actually vested with extensive powers in the largest sector of the Russian economy, and only the first deputy prime minister's resignation held up the new agency's expansion. Yet, Yeltsin's aide is too pragmatic to declare war on the powerful oil and gas lobby from the outset and without particular necessity. After all, Chubays is not Glazyev.

It cannot be ruled out that the chief of staff could directly subordinate to the presidential staff the Federal Treasury, which was created as an agency under the Finance Ministry, but which never learned to stand fully on its own feet. You can imagine how the treasury's real status could change should it find itself in Chubays' tenacious grip.

Paradoxically, Chubays is unlikely to try to use his new position in order to propose drastic personnel changes in the government. A considerable constituent of the deputy prime ministers and ministers got along with the former first deputy premier just fine, and there is scarcely an urgent need to replace them. Possibly, political circumstances might require some personnel sacrifices, and, to all appearances, they will be chosen from among the chiefs of the Finance Ministry. As for Economy Minister Yasin, Chubays considers him to be quite an authority and his performance is likely to continue to suit the chief of staff in the future. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

Ukraine: Deputy Foreign Minister Greets Strobe Talbott

LD1707092296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0845 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Borispol airport, 17 Jul — "The United States attaches exclusive importance to its relations with Ukraine," said Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who arrived in Kiev on a working visit. Speaking at the airport, he said his visit is an expression of the U.S. President's regard for Ukraine.

He said he is coming at "an interesting and important time, when many events taking place in the world need to be discussed." Among other issues, the U.S. official and Ukrainian leaders will be discussing the state of bilateral relations.

Meeting Talbott at the airport, Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko said Ukraine is keen to continue its dialogue with the United States. He said Ukrainian and U.S. officials will exchange views concerning "new developments on the political scene in Eastern Europe and the rest of the world."

Ukraine: Supreme Council Chairman Welcomes Talbott, U.S. Interaction

LD1707112096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1050 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 17 Jul — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who is visiting Kiev, has informed Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz about the official reaction from the White House to the adoption of the Ukrainian Constitution.

Talbott said the event is viewed in Washington as a joint victory for all power structures in Ukraine, rather than a victory of one over another. The adoption of the Constitution was an act which ensured Ukraine's national security, he said. The U.S. official noted Moroz' significant role in the constitutional process.

In his turn, the Ukrainian speaker remarked that all of the country's power structures now face the task of providing for a smooth induction of the new Constitution into the country's legal framework.

The two sides welcomed the fact that meetings between Ukrainian and U.S. leaders have become regular, showing the "systematic nature of Ukrainian-U.S. relations", which "guarantee their future development." Moroz observed, however, that while the Ukrainian part of the U.S.-Ukrainian interparliamentary group has been formed, cooperation between Supreme Council commissions and the U.S. Congress remains passive. He said Ukraine and its parliament can benefit from U.S. experience in the organization of the tax system, local self-government, and parliament's control functions.

Ukraine: World Bank, IMF, U.S. Treasury To Grant More Loans

WS1707083296 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0905 GMT 17 Jul 96

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 16 July — The total amount of credits extended by the World Bank to Ukraine may come to $800,000-1 billion, as the Cabinet of Ministers council on hard currency and credits secretary [as received], Mykola Medolyz told an INFOBANK correspondent.

This amount was discussed in the talks between the World Bank officials and Roman Shpek, head of the National Agency for Reconstruction and Development of Ukraine, held in Washington. In a visit which ended July 15, Roman Shpek discussed the granting of additional credits to Ukraine for the restructuring of coal industry and the solution of social problems in the Donbass coal region. Roman Shpek also discussed the utilization of credits which had been previously extended to Ukraine with the officials from the IMF, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Ministry of Agriculture.

A member of Ukrainian delegation, National Bank President Viktor Yushchenko, in a talk with IMF first deputy head Stanley Fisher proposed to speed up the granting of stand-by credits on the eve of the forthcoming monetary reform in Ukraine. Victor Yushchenko said he hopes for the IMF support in forming the stabilization fund needed for the introduction of new Ukrainian currency. U.S. Treasury Department has confirmed its readiness to render technical support to Ukraine in forming its treasury system. The National Bank will also receive U.S. help to develop securities markets connected to a single electronic network. U.S. Ministry of Agriculture plans to increase the amount of annual credits by $10 million in 1997. The follow-up session of the IMF Board of Directors is to discuss the course of economic reforms in Ukraine on July 29-31.

Ukraine: Protocol on Joint Venture To Pipe Russian Gas Signed

WS1707085596 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0905 GMT 17 Jul 96

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 16 July — According to the INFOBANK sources in the State Committee for Oil, Gas and Oil-Refining Industry, Rem Vyahirev, Russian GazProm Joint-Stock Company president, had talks in Kiev with Ukrainian officials on July 15. Among the issues discussed was the formation of a joint company for the piping of Russian gas through the Ukrainian territory. In a protocol signed after the talks, it was stated that Ukraine will own 51 percent of the stock, with the remaining 49 percent going to Russia.

As our sources in the State Committee for Oil and Gas inform, the newly formed company will soon be joined by a third foreign investor company, to which GazProm and UkrHazProm (Ukraine's gas industry) will transfer part of their share. After the final split up, Ukraine will remain the largest shareholder.

During the talks between GazProm president Rem Vyahirev, President Kuchma, Prime Minister Lazarenko, and Dovzhko, head of the State Committee for Oil and Gas, it was agreed that the Russian GazProm will not raise prices for gas for Ukrainian customers. In return, Ukraine promised to increase volumes of Russian gas pumped into Central and Western Europe. Among the other issues discussed during the talks were supplies of gas for Ukrainian underground storage reservoirs and penalty fees for arrears for gas bought by Ukraine in 1993-94.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Lazarenko Cancels Early Engagements During Donetsk Visit

LD1707100196 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0740 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Donetsk [no date as received] — Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko landed at Donetsk airport [on 16 July] with a slight delay at 1000. Nothing indicated an unusual situation, apart from the presence of a paramedics team and the region's chief injury specialist. The prime minister looked calm.

Almost at once, Lazarenko left for the town of Podluzhye, near Yenakievo, where he spent almost all day. But his earlier program for the Donetsk visit was abandoned. The prime minister did not visit the Abakumov mine, and there was no meeting at the regional state administration or even a news conference. Lazarenko did visit the Rassvet mine of the Oktyabrugol [October Coal] association and promised that the government would soon repay all working miners their back wages.

The prime minister left for Kiev at 1930.

Ukraine: Lazarenko Says Terrorist Action 'Well-Planned'

LD1707084396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0757 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko believes that the terrorist act directed against him on July 16 was a "well-planned action to obliterate me" and "only luck saved us from tragedy."

Meeting journalists at Kiev's Borispol airport late on Tuesday upon his return from a trip to the Donetsk region, Lazarenko said the act "undoubtedly pursued one goal — to make (the premier) cancel his trip to the Donetsk region."

"The way we have put the question of rescuing [the mining region] from its crisis forced criminal structures to organize the assassination attempt, using the most sophisticated methods," he said.

The incident occurred when Lazarenko was riding in a convoy of cars to the airport to fly to the Donetsk region. On the way, a bomb went off, damaging the car with Lazarenko. The prime minister himself was not injured.

Ukraine: Lazarenko Ready To Name People Behind Miners' Strikes

LD1707101496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0845 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The miners' strikes in Donbass are aimed at upsetting signs of stability which are making themselves felt in the Ukrainian coal industry, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko told journalists in Kiev on Tuesday evening upon his return from Donetsk.

"Some are benefitting from uncertainty, instability and the government's systematic efforts to justify their moves," he said.

He also announced that "the decision has been taken to dismiss the prosecutor of the Donetsk region and the leaders of the regional security department for improper work."

On July 17 Lazarenko is to hand the Ukrainian president proposals on other leaders of the Donetsk region. He promised to name the people "standing behind the trade union bosses who organized the strikes and blocked the roads."

According to Lazarenko's sources, "a special investigation group, led by Ukraine's deputy interior minister, has information about these trade union bosses' contacts and the sources which financed their illegal actions."

The prime minister is ready "to safeguard the state interests in all places where officials fail to perform their duties properly and are shifting their own responsibility over to the government."

"Such officials must remain in the past as they have no place in a modern state," he said.

Ukraine: Durdinets Links Terrorist Act to Coal Industry Issues

LD1607170096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk, July 16 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The abortive act of terrorism against Ukrainian Premier Pavlo Lazarenko today is evidence of an attempt to intimidate members of the government commission for ensuring law and order in the coal industry, believes Ukrainian First Vice Premier Vasily Durdinets. "Everything was done to prevent the Prime Minister from going to Donetsk region", he emphasized in an interview in Donetsk on Tuesday.

Vasily Durdinets noted that Pavlo Lazarenko "does not object against financial support for the coal industry, yet he demands a feedback. He is trying to find out where the money of the people has gone". "Not everybody is happy about this sort of approach", the First Vice Premier emphasized. In his opinion, "some political forces fear that law and order will be ensured in the country and are embarking on fierce resistance".

"We intend to start with Donetsk region and will carry on this work despite all difficulties", V. Durdynets said.

Ukraine: Government, Miners Union Sign Debt Payment Agreement

LD1607142196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DONETSK, July 16 (Interfax - Ukraine) — A Ukrainian government delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Vasily Durdinets signed an agreement with the miners' trade union and the independent trade union of Donbass miners in Donetsk Tuesday.

The government in the form of the Mining Ministry guarantees payment of the debt to miners.

June salaries and labor record bonuses for 1995 will be paid to miners before July 20. The overall salary debt is to be paid before September 15, 1996.

The agreement provides "for timely payment of salaries in future."

Mine directors are instructed to finalize schedules of the salary debt payment.

The trade unions will control, distribute and ensure proper uses of money received by the mines, and take an active part in production and saving of resources.

The parties to the agreement appealed to striking miners for immediate resumption of work and participation in the government efforts to stabilize the mining industry.

Trade union activist Mikhail Malandin told Interfax-Ukraine "the deeds and not the words of the government" will help to ease tension in the mining regions. He said, however, the government has taken weighty steps.

A total of 15 trillion karbovantsi were allocated for salaries within a week, while only 2.5 trillion karbovantsi were allocated in June 1996, said Malandin.

Ukraine: Kuchma Makes Further Ministerial Appointments

AU1707113196 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Leonid Kuchma Is Forming a New Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following appointment have been made by Ukrainian presidential edicts: Durdynets, Vasyl Vasylyovych, as Ukraine's first vice prime minister; Kuras, Ivan Fedorovych, as Ukraine's vice prime minister; Pustovoytenko, Valeriy Pavlovych, as minister in Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers; Dankevych, Ivan Petrovych, as Ukraine's minister of transport; Bochkaryov, Yuriy Heorhiyovych, as Ukraine's minister of power engineering and electrification; Holovatyy, Serhiy Petrovych, as Ukraine's minister of justice; Koronevskyy, Valentyn Maksymovych, as Ukraine's minister of finance; Khorishko, Anatoliy Illich, as Ukraine's minister of agriculture and foodstuffs; Polyakov, Serhiy Vasylyovych, as Ukraine's minister of coal industry; Shvedenko, Mykola Mykolayovych, as Ukraine's minister of fisheries; and Kostenko, Yuriy Ivanovych, as Ukraine's minister of environmental protection and nuclear safety.

Belarus

Belarus: Defense Minister Begins Visit to United States

LD1607125796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 16 (Interfax-West) — Belarus Defense Minister, Lt. Gen. Leonid Maltsev began his official visit to the United States on July 16. The Belarus Defense Ministry's press service told Interfax that during the visit bilateral military cooperation within the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace program will be discussed.

The same source said that from July 16 to 24, Maltsev is to visit naval bases in a number of states, and also centers for training American sergeants and commanders.

Shortly before his departure to the U.S., Maltsev told Interfax that military cooperation between Belarus and the United States was successful. Contacts are particularly intensive within the framework of the Nunn-Lugar law envisaging U.S. aid to Belarus in eliminating nuclear weapons and restoring the ecological balance on the former strategic military bases.

In 1994 Belarus had 76 SS-20 strategic missiles. Now it has 18 SS-20 missiles which will be removed to Russia by the end of the year.

At the beginning of June, representatives of the Belarusian and U.S. security and defense ministries signed an agreement under which the United States is to allocate $25 million to the dismantling of the Krona strategic missile launching pads. In accordance with the Nunn-Lugar law, the U.S. Congress is to extend to Belarus a total of $123 million. Part of this sum has been used to equip a flying laboratory, on board an AN-26 aircraft, for a remote analysis and photographing of the soil polluted with radioactive wastes.

Maltsev announced that at the end of last week the laboratory was officially passed over to Belarusian servicemen. The first contract has been implemented for analyzing the ground in the Postaviy district (the Vitebsk region) and in the Pruzhaniy district in the Brest region.

The analysis revealed that the soil is contaminated with ecologically dangerous substances and must be recultivated, after which it can be used for agricultural purposes.

Belarus: Lukashenka's Visit to France Assessed

MM1607153896 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Vyacheslav Prokofyev: "Paris-Minsk: Policy of Rapprochement. Belarusian President Pays Official Visit to France"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — The French know very little about Belarus. It is not often written about in the press and, if there is any mention of this sovereign state on television, it is usually in connection with the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl. The local mass media are mixed in their assessment of the Belarusian leader, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, sometimes depicting him as a "populist in the style of Zhirinovskiy."

Perhaps for that reason, Paris dragged its heels for quite some time before inviting the Belarusian president to France, which has been visited before him by the head of virtually every state formed after the breakup of the USSR. Consequently Alyaksandr Lukashenka's official visit at the end of last week should be regarded, it is believed here, as the starting point in the formation and development of relations between the two countries.

The two presidents talked for more than two hours in the Elysee Palace, initially in private. They then conferred in the presence of their ministers and advisers and signed a Treaty of Friendship, a document defining the principles of mutual relations and the directions in which French-Belarusian dialogue will progress.

There is no doubt that this personal contact has been extremely useful both for the master of the Elysee Palace and for Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Not without reason, the Belarusian president said after their conversation that "an important step forward" has been taken "in the direction of overcoming the distorted image of Belarus in the West." In turn, Jacques Chirac said that "the two countries have become friends with the signing of the treaty." He also said he is willing to pay an official visit to Minsk. A date will be decided later. The French president stressed, in particular, that, thanks to the meeting with his Belarusian colleague, "he now has a better understanding of the situation in Belarus and of the changes taking place there."

The leaders of the two countries devoted special attention to relations with Russia during their talks. Both presidents welcomed the results of the Russian presidential elections, and also noted the exceptionally good relations they have with Boris Yeltsin. They expressed confidence that his election as head of the Russian state will be conducive to the stabilization of East-West relations and to a peaceful search for solutions to the problems of European security. With regard to NATO's eastward expansion, Jacques Chirac told Alyaksandr Lukashenka that it "must not lead to fresh division in Europe." In his opinion, the reform of NATO must be an important factor in the present conditions, and the subsequent process of expanding the bloc must definitely take account of the interests of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

As expected, economic ties between the two countries were discussed at the Paris talks, as were the prospects of France ratifying the partnership agreement signed by the European Union and Belarus. The French gave the Belarusian side to understand that ratification is possible as early as this fall. Both sides were clearly dissatisfied with the present level of economic cooperation between Paris and Minsk, particularly concerning French capital investments. They also discussed the question of giving Belarusian enterprises equal access to European and world markets and lifting European Union antidumping restrictions, particularly with regard to the Mogilev Chemical Fiber Plant.

In the course of his three-day visit, Alyaksandr Lukashenka also met ministers, parliamentarians, and representatives of business circles and visited Normandy in western France, which is famous for its intensive agriculture.

Belarus: Parliament Proposes Nuclear-Free Zone

LD1607201296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1913 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Larisa Lazar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 16 (Itar-Tass) - The Belarusian parliament put forth an initiative to create a nuclear-free zone from Ukraine to the Nordic countries.

Its 102 deputies signed an appropriate address to parliaments and peoples of Europe.

Commenting on this document at a news conference on Tuesday, Petr Kravchenko, chairman of the parliamentary commission on international affairs, stressed that the essence of the initiative is that Belarus, Ukraine, the Baltics, Poland and, following them, other Central European countries would refuse to deploy nuclear weapons in their territories.

In Kravchenko's opinion, this decision was prompted by a serious concern of Byelorussian deputies and politicians over planned NATO expansion to the East, which may lead to international tension in the centre of Europe and to rising nuclear confrontation.

Belarus which refused voluntarily to deploy nuclear weapons in its territory, has the right to hope for such a move on the part of its neighbours, Kravchenko claimed.

As for Belarus, in Kravchenko's opinion, the republic can become a completely nuclear-free zone in three or four months, since, according to the understandings with Russia, the remaining 18 missiles are to be carried away from the Belarusian territory by the end of the year.

The commission chairman noted that he intends to request assistance from Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov in circulating this idea through Russian diplomats in the countries where Belarus has no its own embassies.

Belarus: Speaker Sums Up Results of Parliament's Work

WS1607134996 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian
13 Jul 96 pp 1,2

[Speech by Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski concluding the first session of the 13th Belarusian Supreme Soviet in Minsk on 12 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed colleagues! The first session of the 13th Belarusian Supreme Soviet is coming to an end. What can one say in summing up its results?

First, the elections for deputies to the 13th Supreme Soviet laid a foundation for a new stage of the development of democracy in our Republic. The elections for deputies to the current parliament — unlike the elections for deputies to former parliaments — were conducted on a multiparty basis. For the first time, people had an opportunity to meet with candidates who presented different opinions and elect one of them, and not just vote for someone designated from above. This, in turn — in addition to what I said about expanding democracy during the elections — increases the responsibility of every one of us because we won seats for which other people were competing. Although the overwhelming majority of them were respectable candidates as well, the people trusted us. And we are obliged to value this trust.

Second, because the elections were conducted on a multiparty basis, five factions have been formed in the current Supreme Soviet — unlike former ones — and are working in it. It has been proven, in practice, that this is a great step toward the democratization of the political life in our Republic.

In the work of parliament, factions represent a link in which certain political opinions take an organizational form and are compared with other opinions. As a result of such a comparison, which is most often accompanied by polemics, the optimum solutions are found, which, in turn, positively affect the process of passing laws and Supreme Soviet resolutions. Moreover, the presence of factions does not make it possible for a deputy or a group of deputies to divert the parliament's attention and draw it to a debate on one issue in order to gain political capital.

For example, the 12th Supreme Soviet devoted over ten meetings to a debate on issues concerning corruption. As you know, the result of all of this is that many of those who were tagged the most corrupt people are currently working in the government, presidential structures, etc.

There was a great deal of politicking among certain deputies — representatives of the Belarusian Popular Front. Incidentally, it was the only organized faction in the 12th Supreme Soviet. Therefore, this faction sometimes conducted its policy in an unhampered manner. At the same time, (and we have become convinced of this in our Supreme Soviet), it is not easy to do this with the presence of many factions because representatives of other factions do not make it possible to use the parliamentary rostrum for populist purposes.

Third, I would like to point out that in a civilized society everything is systemized and organized. And a political party means a combination of a certain ideology with organization. Therefore, a civilized society, in which freedom of opinion is secured — without which there cannot be personal freedom — can only be a multiparty society. If this is true, then there will always be factions in future parliaments.

In connection with the above, I believe that our Law on the Supreme Soviet will have to be amended and factions will have to be transformed into official structures of the legislative body. By the way, I became convinced of this even more after our meetings with Russian parliamentarians.

Fourth, I would like to note that the current Supreme Soviet began its work with a debate on a very difficult issue — the Republic's budget. We discussed this issue for two months, and not for five months, as some people claimed. As you have already seen — this was noted in our statement — all in all, 99 plenary meetings have been held and 282 issues have been examined during the first session. We have passed 54 laws and over 214 resolutions. In the course of six months, 11 meetings of the Supreme Soviet Presidium were held during which 247 issues were discussed and 224 resolutions adopted. All of this confirms that the Supreme Soviet has worked productively during this period. Furthermore, as Supreme Soviet chairman, I would like to note the deputies' high public responsibility, professionalism, and ability to give up their interests in the name of a common cause. By passing the laws on responsibility for violating the Constitution and other laws, deputies have demonstrated their political maturity. (Applause)

Certain people would say that these laws should not be passed because the president would not sign them, and even canvassed for this. I would always ask the following question: Does this mean that we should pass a law on the lack of responsibility for failing to implement the Constitution or laws?

Can this question arise in a law-governed society? I think that people who have an idea of a law-governed society cannot even dream about violating the Constitution or laws.

Fifth, the constructive work of the Supreme Soviet has made it possible to tackle the most complex issues — those concerning economic reforms — during the first six months of our work. I hope that the commission — which we have set up along with the executive branch, scientists, and experienced practical employees — will develop a scientifically substantiated concept of reforms, taking into account the current level of the development of the forces of production, the current structure and concentration of production, and the mentality of our people.

Esteemed colleagues, I am very grateful to you for all of this because this has allayed my work as the chairman. In its work, the Supreme Soviet has been guided only by one thing — the interests of its people and sovereign state — which bears the proud name the Republic of Belarus.

Have there been any shortcomings in the work of the current Supreme Soviet? Of course, there have been such shortcomings. Evidently, they will exist in the future. Esteemed colleagues, to reduce their number, let us not set ourselves or sling mud at one another. Let us submit constructive proposals to improve the work of the Supreme Soviet. Only then will we work for the prestige of the Supreme Soviet, that is, the prestige of each one of us.

Finally, in light of the fact that different assessments of my latest speech have appeared in the press, I want to emphasize that in my opinion, it was well-considered, elaborated, and weighed.

Without resorting to polemics, I would like to emphasize once again that the Supreme Soviet is not an ulcer on the frame of society, but according to the Constitution, it is the highest representative and the only legislative state body of the Republic of Belarus, which, I would like to emphaize, constantly operates. (Applause) This is a constitutional rule... (Applause) And this means that our Republic cannot exist even one day without the Supreme Soviet. Only the Supreme Soviet itself may decide to quit working before the end of its term — and only in accordance with a resolution by the Supreme Soviet

..elf, which should be adopted by at least two thirds of the elected deputies. No one else has been granted this right according to the Constitution.

The fact that meetings will not be convened for the next month and a half does not mean at all that the work of the Supreme Soviet will be suspended. Some deputies will go on leave and the rest will work. Commissions and the Presidium will work regularly. I think that factions will hold their meetings, too. The temporary commission for developing economic policy will work for sure. If needed, an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet may be convened.

Esteemed deputies, please use the period of parliamentary summer recess to learn the Belarusian language. I think that we will open the next regular session in Belarusian. (Applause)

Thus, the first meeting of the second session will be held on 3 September at 1000 in the morning since this will be the first Tuesday in September.

Once again, thank you for your joint work. (Applause)

Armenia

Armenia: Armenian, Azeri Military Meet on Armenia-Nakhichevan Border

NC1507181196 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1359 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, July 15 (Noyan Tapan) — Armenian and Azeri military met Thursday [11 July] on the Yeraskh-Sadarak section of the Armenia-Nakhichevan border, Armenia's Defense Ministry reports.

The Armenian delegation was headed by Chief Border Commissioner of the Armenian Defense Ministry, Lieutenant-Colonel Varazdat Chorgntsian, while the Azeri military were led by Border Commissioner of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, Major Shoukyurov.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the progress that has been attained for the last 6 months, particularly, stressing the decrease in number of border incidents compared with last year.

The parties also conferred about issues regarding establishment of telephone communication between commanders of border troops. The delegations also agreed to hold next meeting with participation of commanders of all border detachments.

Armenia: Yerevan Reports Azerbaijan Violation of Truce on Border

LD1607151096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, July 16 (Interfax) — Another violation of the truce on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border was registered on Monday, when Azerbaijani military detachments shelled defensive positions of the Armenian army with large-calibre machine guns and grenade launchers near the border village of Chambarak in the Gegarkunik region, the press service of the Armenian Defense Ministry told Interfax.

No casualties have been reported. The Azerbaijani party stopped shelling after the Armenian forces returned fire.

Incidents such as this occur sporadically on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Meanwhile, the number of border incidents on the border between the Nakhichevan autonomous republic (a part of Azerbaijan) and Armenia has greatly reduced compared with last year, according to the press service.

This is the result of the joint activity of Armenian and Nakhichevan border guards, representatives of the press service said.

Lt. Col. Varazdat Chorgntsyian and Nakhichevan's border commissar, Maj. Shyukur Sunday, discussed the possibility of establishing telephone communication between the commanders of the border units, the press center reported.

They have reached an agreement to organize a meeting between the commanders of all border units from Armenia and Nakhichevan.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: IMF 'Pressure' on Economic Policy Viewed

MM1607085196 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Ali Naibov: "Overconfidence Ends in Azerbaijan. This Meets With IMF's Approval"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku — If you explain to an unemployed Baku mechanical engineer or an unemployed Sumgait chemist that on the whole things are going pretty well for the Azerbaijani economy, these desperate people with their southern temperament will react with characteristic fire to this stupid joke. "Are you making fun of me?!" will be the reply of a father of a family who goes cap in had for $5 layoff money a month and is forced to sell contraband cigarettes or at best unmarketable goods which are a payment in kind from his own enterprise.

But from the IMF's "vantage point," the Azerbaijani national economy does not seem to be in such a hopeless position. IMF representative in Baku Tevfik Yaprak [as transliterated] tried to persuade journalists of this.

The IMF board of directors, he said, has adopted a decision to grant the republic the third tranche (of the promised four) of a stand-by credit of almost $18 million, which for Azerbaijan is a fairly substantial sum of aid. The representative continued to hand out incentives by saying that a further group of IMF experts will arrive in Baku in August and if the republic continues to behave well it will receive the fourth and final tranche of the loan.

In the Fund's opinion, Azerbaijan is behaving well. Especially in the area of finance. For example, under pressure from the IMF (in the language of international economic documents this is called a "recommendation") the other day the republic's National Bank reluctantly permitted corporate bodies to withdraw all capital from their accounts in cash. Thus the days of the so-called "cash quota" [obnalichka] — "cap" on turning money into crisp bills — are numbered. In connection with its demise, consumer prices have fallen slightly (down with "caps"!). The manat, which has been quietly stagnating for the last six months, has gone on the attack against (the holy of holies!) His Majesty the Dollar. In the space of a couple of months the young national currency has squeezed the "greenback" by 5 percent. Although, asked by your RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA correspondent about the reasons for the manat's summer counteroffensive, T. Yaprak assigned a secondary significance to the National Bank's latest action, the IMF is, however much you may criticize it, still effective [myshey lovit]. Though, this is scant consolation for the majority of inhabitants of Azerbaijan who still cannot get hold of butter.

The IMF is perhaps providing credit for Azerbaijan's other, more doubtful achievements in the sphere of economic reform as an advance against generous promises and proper statements, which the government does not stint on. The Fund has only noted, so to speak, the initial results of the "pretend" small-scale privatization.

"From a technical point of view it is very simple to solve the problem of nonpayments," T. Yaprak confided, "it is enough to introduce mandatory prepayment. But from a political point of view it is very complicated. But it cannot remain unresolved as it gives rise to a whole series of other problems, including social problems, which are the most acute problems of all."

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Receives U.S. Arms Control Official

NC1607203096 Baku TURAN in English
1625 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku /16.07.96/ TURAN — Today President Geydar Aliyev received Lynn Davis, U.S. Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs . President Aliyev said that discussing of security questions would contribute to development of bilateral relations. "Briefing me about your arrival, the president Clinton, in his letter, expressed hope that this visit would be significant both for the US and Azerbaijan," Aliyev said. And he noted that late in May 1996 consultations on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) were held in Vienna. Then the positions of Baku and Washington did not coincide, Aliyev said. He considers the reason was "very serious attitude of Baku to the questions concerning state independence of the country." According to the president, there are many problems in this sphere, but Baku is ready to discuss them in order to agree the positions of the two states.

Lynn Davis told in turn that Azerbaijan was concerned about the adoption of the papers late in May in Vienna. Therefore, a decision was made to pay a visit to the region and to discuss the situation. "Our visit is devoted not only to the above Treaty, but also to the security problems of Azerbaijan in broad sense. We are ready to discuss with you questions on strengthening of security in Azerbaijan and to agree our positions," she said. "We are ready to discuss the question on plan limitations about which Azerbaijan is concerned," Lynn Davis said.

The Undersecretary also said that the U.S. support territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and its independence.

Then the meeting was held behind closed doors.

Azerbaijan: Gasanov, U.S. Official Discuss CFE Treaty, Security

LD1607134796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1156 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Sevindzh Abullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 16 (Itar-Tass) — Regional security issues and matters connected with the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) by Azerbaijan were discussed on Tuesday by the republic's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and Lynn Davis, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. She arrived here on Monday.

Speaking about the importance of the CFE treaty, Ms Davis pointed out that the observance of the CFE treaty guarantees stability and security for Parties to the Treaty. At the same time she called for a continuation of talks on security issues, including those within the framework of such institutions as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ms Davis said the purpose of her visit to the region (she spent one day in Tbilisi and will also go to Yerevan), is to deepen the previous talks with the leadership of Transcaucasian states on security issues. She said her arrival in Baku reaffirms U.S. commitment to the principles of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Gasanov said Baku views the visit as a continuation of the important political dialogue between Azerbaijan and the U.S. The trip by Ms Davis demonstates the interest of the U.S. administation in a settlement of security problems in Azerbaijan and the region as a whole and in the establishment of political stability. Baku believes that the CFE treaty should be extended, the Minister pointed out.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze on Abkhazia, Council of Europe

LD1507130196 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0508 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Regular weekly interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Mr. President, I am not going to begin our interview with the issue of the latest economic developments because an important resolution on Abkhazia was taken last week. Generally, the issue of Abkhazia prevailed last week. I mean statements made at various news conferences, a meeting of the Georgian National Security Council, which considered a state program on complete settling of the Abkhazian conflict and, what is more, the 12 July UN Security Council meeting that passed a resolution with distinguished accents and, we can say, a distinguished tone. [passage omitted] A statement by the U.S. representative at the UN made during the discussion of the issue should be noted. In his words, although separatists are fighting for independence and separation, their hope is doomed because this will never happen.

[Shevardnadze] I will speak about the UN Security Council meeting. The resolution passed in New York on 12 July is yet another stage along the path of isolating aggressive separatism and settling the conflict by peaceful means. [passage omitted]

The resolution indicates that Abkhazia's political status can be considered only within the Georgian state, given that Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity are fully respected.

The Security Council expresses concern over the aggravation of the situation in Abkhazia, namely in Gali district as regards the security of the population. The Security Council expresses concern over an uncompromised stand taken by the Abkhaz side in the process of negotiations. The resolution emphasizes the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their domicile safely. The Security Council deplores systematic efforts made by the Abkhaz side to frustrate the process of their return to their homes. It also indicates that the return of refugees to their homes cannot be connected with the definition of Abkhazia's status. [passage omitted] It is necessary to set a schedule for the return of refugees to Abkhazia and it is necessary that the schedule be complied with.

The UN Security Council once again refers to the resolutions of the [OSCE] Budapest summit and reaffirms the unacceptability of any demographic changes resulting from conflicts. [passage omitted] You may recall that the Budapest summit resolution recognized ethnic cleansing as a fact in Abkhazia and now it has been asserted that the demographic changes resulting from this action are absolutely unacceptable for the UN Security Council as well as the world community. Ethnic killings and actions relating to the ethnic wars, that is the displacement of the population, have been condemned. [passage omitted]

A decision was taken to consider technical and financial assistance to Abkhazia — Georgia — in order to secure the restoration of the region in case the conflict is settled politically. This will be an incentive to involve in the process of a peaceful settlement not only refugees but also the population remaining in Abkhazia who should be interested in speeding up the process of reconciliation. This will result in a speedy improvement of their living standards. [passage omitted]]

The example of former Yugoslavia demonstrates that the world is prepared to take crucial actions, including the use of concentrated armed force, in order to put out the fire of conflicts and wars. I would like all, especially those in Abkhazia, to keep this in mind.

The wave of aggressive separatism, which has caused peoples of the world so much pain, will be suppressed by all means and justice will be restored. The process has already begun.

It is essential that the process of negotiations resume. In this respect, I welcome suggestions made by the Russian authorities. Talks may start even in the next few days. Multipartite as well as bilateral talks may become a reality following appropriate preparatory work. My participation in the talks is also being considered.

I am ready to meet [South Ossetian leader] Ludvig Chibirov in the next few days. He has also said he is prepared to participate in a meeting like this. The venue of the meeting will be negotiated. I am confident that intense Abkhaz-Georgian talks, in which I also intend to participate, will start in the very near future. I would like to explain that the unconditional return of displaced persons to their homes and the securing of a safe life for them must be the topic of all the planned talks.

I would also like to add that although we will have to do our best to secure positive results and to use all the existing reserves for a political settlement, if the negotiations fail to deliver positive results, Georgia, which is a state different from what it used to be even a couple of years ago, will take appropriate actions and use various means to restore its political and territorial integrity. Everyone should realize once and for all that there is no alternative to Georgia's territorial integrity.

Separatism will not find acceptance or thrive in Georgia. The place of the Abkhaz and Ossetians within a united Georgia will be determined painlessly on the basis of international law and within the framework of universal and European standards.

As you have already said, the Georgian Security Council has approved a comprehensive program of settling the conflict in Abkhazia. This program includes all, I repeat, all aspects of actions to be taken in this respect. These are not only negotiations but some other measures as well.

[Oniani] Thank you. Now, traditionally, a few words about last week's economic developments, the progress of economic reform, meetings, and fresh decisions.

[Shevardnadze] A generally successful progress of economic reforms in Georgia has created an attractive environment for foreign investments. High-ranking representatives of foreign business circles demonstrate an ever increasing striving toward cooperation with our country.

While on a visit to Georgia last week, John Kluge [name as heard], a reputed representative of American private business and the chairman of the Metromedia corporation, which is one of the giants in world business, demonstrated a strong interest in the fields of economics and science in which he believes it is advantageous to conduct business jointly. In particular, he spoke of improving the system of communications and bringing it up to international standards. This, indeed, is one of the major preconditions Georgia has to meet in order to carry out the function of a Eurasian corridor. This time, we signed an agreement on developing a cellular telephone network system.

Having signed appropriate contracts, the heads of the Dutch General Bank and Dalsem company of Holland have confirmed their readiness to make investments and set up joint ventures in the sphere of poultry production, greenhouse construction, flower and mushroom growing. [passage omitted]

I will not elaborate on the results of Georgia's economic activities in the first half of 1996 because a government meeting on the issue will receive extensive coverage in the media.

[Oniani] And the final question. Daniel Tarchys, the secretary general of the Council of Europe and the Estonian foreign minister [Siim Kallas] visited Georgia yesterday. Can we say that the visit has made Georgia's intent to become a member of the Council of Europe more realistic?

[Shevardnadze] I would comment on the issue this way: The visit to Georgia by a high-ranking delegation from the Council of Europe coincided with the confirmation of the guest status for Georgia by the council. We handed the delegation our application for full membership of the Council of Europe. I think Georgia will probably become a member of the Council of Europe in a year or a year-and-a-half's time.

Considering the progress we have achieved thanks to our relations with the European Union, our becoming a member of the Council of Europe will become a historic occasion.

Our talks with the delegation were conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill, friendship, and mutual understanding.

It is worth indicating that the visit of the high-ranking delegation of the Council of Europe covers all the three Transcaucasus states. This once again emphasizes the necessity of bringing cooperation among the states of the region to a new level. [passage omitted]

Georgia: Council of Europe Favors Peaceful End to Abkhaz Conflict

LD1507150296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, July 15 (Interfax) — The Council of Europe advocates a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. If Georgia undertakes coercive measures to solve the conflict, the Council of Europe will not approve of them, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Daniel Tarschys told a press conference Monday [15 July] in Tbilisi on the results of his two-day visit to Georgia.

Tarschys said he was persuaded of the desire of the Georgian leadership to settle the conflict by peaceful political methods during his meetings in Tbilisi.

He said that Georgia had to join the Council of Europe. This request shall be considered, Tarschys said.

He stated the intention of the Council of Europe to render assistance to Georgia in the sphere of lawmaking and legal proceedings.

Tarschys said that before Georgia becomes a plenipotentiary member of the Council of Europe it must bring its legislation into conformity the European standards. This primarily concerns the abolition of the death penalty, he said.

Tarschys left Tbilisi for the Armenian capital of Yerevan together with the chairman of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Council of Europe, Estonian

Foreign Minister Siim Kallas, who is accompanying Tarschys in his trip throughout the South Caucasus republics. The delegation has already visited Baku.

Georgia: Abkhaz Leader Criticizes UN Security Council Resolution

LD1507132796 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1220 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 15 Jul — Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba has commented on UN Security Council resolution No. 1065, which condemns the separatists' position. According to Ardzinba, the United Nations has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of the so-called Republic of Abkhazia, all the more because Abkhazia is not yet a member of the United Nations.

Georgia: Russian Delegation Discusses Abkhaz Problem in Tbilisi

AU1607120496 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 9 Jul 96 pp 1, 14

[Report by Eka Saria: "More Than 1,000 People Have Perished in Abkhazia Since the End of the War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Between 7 and 10 July, meetings are being held in Tbilisi with a delegation from Russia's Federation Council. The delegation is headed by Oleg Bogomolov, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for CIS Affairs.

During the meeting arranged with the Committee for Foreign Relations on 8 July, Committee Chairman Kakha Chitaia spoke mainly about the Abkhaz conflict. "We are grateful to the Russian Federation that the bloodshed has stopped," he stated. "However, according to data provided by experts, more than 1,000 people have perished as a result of violence since the end of the war." He said that the decision adopted on 19 January, according to which the peacekeeping forces are to assist in the return of the refugees, is being delayed considerably because of the lack of political will on the part of Russia. It is precisely this that has led us to raise the question of our future relations: "We view the transfer of [military] bases as unacceptable unless you recognize that you are kindly disposed toward us," added Chitaia.

Whereas Georgia has been fulfilling all the points in the negotiations and agreements, Russia has been behaving differently. According to Chitaia, he nevertheless trusted them to the end, but other circumstances had to be taken into account: Many radical views exist in Georgia. These people are demanding that this problem be solved quickly and view the government's position as being a loyal one. They say that it is essential that Russia should view and negotiate with Georgia as an independent state.

In reply, Bogomolov stated that Georgia should not have anything against Russia's peacekeeping forces. It is necessary to hold talks on extending the latter's powers and conferring upon them the right of police supervision. In his view, the peacekeeping forces are coping well with the duties with which they have been entrusted. He also said the statement claiming that Georgia is making certain concessions to Russia is not correct. It seems Russia is not dictating anything to anyone. It simply has its own national interests. Here, he mentioned in an ambiguous way the problem of the Meskhian Turks. Finally, it was decided to create a working group that will focus on hot spots; it will be made up of deputies from both countries.

"We Know Very Well Who Was Waging War Against Us"

The same day, the delegation met the Abkhazian Supreme Council and Cabinet of Ministers. Following a brief historical digression, the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Council [Tamaz Nadareishvili] said they knew very well who was waging war against them. It is clear that 80,000 Abkhazians could not defeat 5 million Georgians. Regarding the peacekeeping forces, in Nadareishvili's view, they had established only an artificial border. He said: they are protecting Abkhazia's fascist regime and are trading in trees, corpses, and citrus fruits; they are bringing shame upon the Russian officer's uniform.

Ardzinba Is Being Taken Around Moscow Like a King

Zurab Erkvania, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, believes that Russia itself is in an unclear position and is playing a game of double standards. "Georgia will in no way adhere to the customs legislation and will not ratify the [agreement on Russian] military bases until this problem is settled. We cannot continue to have relations with Tikhonov, Zatulin, and Baburin [pro-Abkhazian Russian deputies]," said Erkvania. In his view, everything is based on Ardzinba's individual will. He is being pampered in Moscow. He has a 300-man bodyguard unit and is being taken around Moscow like a king. Moreover, they have opened a representation office there.

These statements made Bogomolov very angry: "If you are accusing us of playing a game of double standards, it is incomprehensible why you should be pleased with Yeltsin's victory. That needs to be proved." He said he would under no circumstances allow himself to call another country's troops executioners unless this had been decided by the court. He advised Georgians to look for the reasons for everything that has happened among them. In his view, the fact that some Russian soldier sells an assault rifle has nothing to do with Russia. He did not pay any attention to Nadareishvili's remark that this someone was the defense minister, his deputy, and the commander in chief.

At the end of the day, in their meeting with Parliament Chairman Zhvania they again returned to the Abkhazian question and the necessity of opening the railroad.

Georgia: Abkhaz Official Criticizes 'Imperialist' Russian Delegation

AU1607123796 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 9 Jul 96 p 14

[Report by Eka Sikharulidze on two interviews with Abkhazian Supreme Council Chairman Tamaz Nadareishvili by unidentified REZONANSI correspondent in Tbilisi; dates not given: "'It Is Blatant Cynicism To Praise the Peacekeeping Forces,' Believes Tamaz Nadareishvili"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to the meeting with the delegation from the Russian Federation, a REZONANSI correspondent asked Abkhazian Supreme Council Chairman Tamaz Nadareishvili for an interview.

In answer to the first question concerning the extension of the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces, he stated that the Abkhazian Supreme Council had issued a decree terminating the mandate and he would be raising the question of the withdrawal of Russian troops at every opportunity.

In answer to the second question as to what his position would be regarding Rodionov's [chief of Russian General Staff Military Academy] and Lebed's role in returning Abkhazia, he stated that this policy was not decided by specific individuals and, in this case, Rodionov and Lebed had no importance at all. This is a question to be decided at a higher level. As regards Yakushev [commander of Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia], he accused the latter of trading in corpses, trees, citrus fruits, and nuts and said that, in spite of the fact that Georgia had done everything for him — ranging from an apartment to his wife's jewelry — Yakushev had done nothing in return for Georgia. On the contrary, he had lined his pockets and got rich at Georgia's expense.

To the question of whether it was necessary to put a halt to Russia's influence against the background of the EU and the UN troops, he stated that the time had come to do this and that it would definitely be done.

Nadareishvili refrained from naming those people whom it suits to have Russian troops remain here. According to him, Abkhazia has become a source of enrichment for many people and so it suits these people if Russian troops remain here. In addition, he said that the same people were strictly opposed to bringing in Georgian police. Although this is clearly a step forward for Georgia in the Abkhazian matter, he has been spending these two days going around and having to clarify the situation both to Parliament and the Supreme Council and the Abkhazian authorities.

Following the tense meeting with the Russian delegation, a REZONANSI correspondent again asked Tamaz Nadareishvili for an interview. He said that today's meeting reminded him of the old days when the older brother taught us sense and what we should say, ask, and do. "I was unable to see a desire on Russia's part to understand this problem. We saw how they became irritated by the truth. We again saw the imperialist approach. I do not believe that it will be possible to work with this group. To say that the peacekeeping forces are fulfilling their function well is blatant cynicism," he stated.

Georgia: 'Large Number' of 'Oppressed' Armenians Leaving Abkhazia

AU1607100496 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 10 Jul 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Large Number of Armenians Are Leaving Abkhazian Territory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian charitable organization "Krunk" currently has a major influence on Abkhazian territory. The society's chairman is Albert Kokolian, deputy speaker of Abkhazia's so-called Parliament. The organization represents a separate faction in Parliament. Opposition between the Abkhazians and Armenians has arisen on account of the fact that "Krunk's" leadership has been forced to review its attitude toward Ardzinba [Abkhazian leader]. The Armenians are indignant because their political demands are being ignored, and they are being oppressed, robbed, taken hostage, murdered, and so forth. As a result of all this, a large number of them are leaving Abkhazia. They take the view that, if the Georgians get Abkhazia back, the Armenians will not forgive the Abkhazian separatists for the acts that they have committed.

Georgia: Abkhazia Diplomat Denies Allegation of Ethnic Purges

LD1607091996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0852 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 16 (Interfax) — The delegation of Abkhazia to current Moscow consultations on the settlement of the conflict with

Georgia intends to demand the revival of the fact-finding commission in order to remove charges of ethnic purges put forward against the Abkhazian side by U.N. Security Council resolutions, in particular the latest one approved on July 12.

In an interview with Interfax Abkhazia's chief negotiator Andrey Jergenia denied charges of ethnic purges during the 1992-1993 armed conflict, saying that individual crimes against Georgians cannot be called a policy of the Abkhazian authorities.

He said the delegation would call on Tuesday [16 July] afternoon for reviving the commission that existed at the end of 1993.

Jergenia depicted the July 12 U.N. Security Council resolution as one-sided, like all other resolutions on Abkhazia. He said the Security Council "blames the Abkhazian side for everything and sees no violations by Georgia."

Jergenia viewed as a deviation from earlier understandings the requirement of the resolution that Abkhazia define its political status within a Georgian state. The April 4, 1994, declaration signed by the sides to the conflict along with Russia, the U.N. and the OSCE, implies "there are no state relations between Georgian and Abkhazia and it is possible to discuss their revival only on the basis of equality," the negotiator said.

He thinks Russia mediating the settlement does not rule out the equality of the sides in the future common state of Georgia and Abkhazia. He said this is proved by a provision of a protocol drafted by Russia saying "each of the equal sides shall keep its constitution and relations between them shall be regulated by a special treaty which can have the force of a constitutional law under by [as received] agreement of the sides."

On the Security Council resolution call to Sukhumi to speed up the return of refugees Jergenia said the process is under way and about half of the refugees — 60,000 people — have returned to the Gali district. He said refugees return independently and are registered upon arrival. However, neither Georgia, nor the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees "support our approach to the matter which actually carries out the schedule on which the Security Council insists," the Abkhazian official said.

Jergenia urged the U.N. to find forms of Abkhazian involvement in the work on resolutions to make them more balanced.

Georgia: Abkhazian Opposition Seeks 'Close' Ties to Turkey

AU1607100596 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 9 Jul 96 p 3

[IBERIA report: "The Abkhazian Opposition Seeks Close Ties With Turkey"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, Abkhazia's parliamentary opposition is made up of a pro-Turkish group of deputies under the leadership of Konstantine Ozgan. They do not have their own party and secretly express the desire to turn Abkhazia into a state that is oriented toward Turkey. In their view, Abkhazia should become an independent sovereign state that has close contacts with the Muslim world. They reject Abkhazia's union with Russia. This view is shared by Said Tarkil, head of Gudauta's administration.

Estonia

Estonia: President Meri Comments on Visit to Germany

LD1607210696 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Lennart Meri provided more detailed information today about the outcome of his visit to Germany. When he returned yesterday, the president said that he was satisfied with the visit. Ulvi Soerumae went along to the news conference.

[Soerumae] Lennart Meri, the president of the Republic of Estonia, visited Germany at an invitation from Theo Waigel, chairman of the German Christian Social Union and finance minister. [passage omitted] President Meri met also German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The focus of the visit was on the key issues of the future development of Europe, that is expansion of both the European Union and NATO, the strategy and tactics for this, and the time factor, which is of particular relevance to Estonia and the other Baltic states. According to Lennart Meri, it is harder today to ensure stability in northern Europe than it was five years ago. It can still be achieved but one should consider the time factor with care. The reason for moving the time factor to the forefront is known. Here is President Lennart Meri.

[Begin Meri recording] The situation has changed. And what I mean here is that due to the Russian presidential election campaign, very varying signals have been sent from Moscow, unfortunately overwhelmingly negative signals for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. There have also been quite public standpoints based on party programs, on the restoration of the USSR and of the USSR's zones of influence, and this of course has not failed to make its mark in both Munich and Bayern. This, indeed, was the reason why immediately before going to Bayern I approached the federal chancellor's office and requested that these matters be discussed so that both sides would have a slightly more precise and clear understanding as to how the future expansion of both the EU and European security structures would shape up. [end recording]

[Soerumae] According to Lennart Meri, there is a serious danger that Europe and the United States will find it more and more difficult to keep the door open for cooperation with Russia. On the other hand, there is the danger of giving way to Russian political rhetoric, with the regrettable consequence that this would obscure both the EU and NATO aims. It is in Estonia's intere[illegible] to avoid both. Lennart Meri emphasized that ensu[illegible] security in the Baltic Sea region is a priority for Estonia. Estonia proceeds from the assumption that Germany will display interest in substance to involve the Baltic states in the NATO expansion. Only NATO's expansion can protect Germany from being pushed in a direction dangerous not only for its neighbors but first and foremost for Germany itself. The same applies to the EU. The EU and NATO strengthen and supplement each other. It is undoubtedly clear to Germany that one cannot replace the other like some politicians have tried to claim. Here is President Lennart Meri:

[Begin Meri recording] I would like to emphasize here that the discussion with Federal Chancellor Kohl which took place yesterday, yesterday morning, was very pleasantly frank and several questions were clarified on both sides. We hope that Russia will succeed in finding enough will of its own, and moral will first and foremost, as well as strength, to continue on the course of reforms. I would like to state to you that as a result of this substantial conversation we concluded that we evaluate the situation in a similar manner: There can be no security in Europe if the degree of security in one part of Europe is lower than in Europe as a whole. [end recording]

Estonia: Meri Hopes for 'Fast' Border Agreement With Russia

WS1707075596 Tallinn ETA in English 1813 GMT 16 Jul 96

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, July 16 (ETA) - Estonia President Lennart Meri told a news conference in Tallinn on Tuesday [16 July] that he hoped Estonia might be able to strike a fast border deal with Russia after the re-election of Boris Yeltsin.

"We have no territorial problems in the border issue. There is just one principal question and that is so important for Estonia that there can be no retreat," President Meri said, bearing in mind the Tartu Peace Treaty of 1920 which Russia has this far refused to acknowledge.

We cannot just sit there and look as the conscience of our country is torn from us, Meri said. He stressed his readiness to meet Russian leaders in order to discuss the point.

Meri said that this far he personally has discussed the border issue with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Estonia must have an acknowledged border by the time it becomes a member of the European Union, which according to some of Estonia's leaders may happen in five years' time.

Estonia: Validity of Former Soviet Passports Extended

LD1607175996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 16 Jul 96

[By Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, July 16 (Itar-Tass) - Estonian authorities have prolonged the validity of former Soviet passports for ethnic Russians, who are non-citizens of the Baltic republic, up to November 30, 1996, Interior Ministry spokesman Rein Milistver told Itar-Tass on Friday [12 July].

The validity of former Soviet passports was to expire on Friday. Estimated 300,000 ethnic Russians in Estonia have already named this day as "black Friday" as it would have denied them the possibility to return to Estonia in case of a foreign travel.

Milistver said that non-citizens of Estonia would get a special mark in their former Soviet passports while crossing the border upon a checkup in the central register of residence permissions.

Residence permissions will be automatically granted to everybody who has appealed for it before July 12 and has not received a written denial.

By taking these measures, the Estonian authorities try to compensate for their own lack of administrative abilities with regard to the law on foreigners they adopted three years ago.

Under the law, all residents of the republic, having no Estonian citizenship, must get a residence permission and passports of a foreigner.

The Foreign Ministry of Russia expects the Estonian authorities to take necessary measures to grant in good time residence permissions to non-citizens of this country.

Vladimir Andreyev, official representative of the Foreign Ministry of Russia, told a briefing here today that the ministry had repeatedly drawn attention lately of the Estonian authorities and the international public to the sharpening of the condition of the Russian speaking population of the republic in connection with an intention of Tallinn to annul from July 12 the validity of internal passports of the former USSR.

However, despite promises and assurances of the Estonian official persons, by that time the process of granting residence permits was not completed and only the issue of passports of a foreigner began.

According to the Russian diplomat, an "explosive situation has arisen which concerns the rights of hundreds of thousands of the people and fraught with the most serious consequences."

Vladimir Andreyev informed that as a result of insistent efforts, made by Russia, international organisations and a number of European countries, the Estonian government was compelled to take some "half measures" which allowed to ease the situation a little but had not resolved the problem in principle.

In this connection, the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed, that the ministry continued to watch closely the development of the situation and expected the Estonian authorities to take measures to issue residence permits and unconditionally observe the rights of the people to the freedom of movement.

Estonia: NATO Defense Advisory Group Visits Paldiski

WS1607085396 Tallinn ETA in English 0811 GMT 16 Jul 96

[From SONUMILEHT 16 Jul 96 p 3: "News Bulletin" No. 136]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The group of NATO chancellors IDAB [expansion unknown], headed by General Garry Johnson, visited yesterday Paldiski and learned about the activities and economic situation of the Estonian peacekeeping company from the unit's chief Omar Jaesk. Jaesk told the bad condition of the buildings taken over from the Russian army and lack of training equipment were the main problems.

IDAB counsellors will take part today in a seminar on defence policy directions, held in the Defence Ministry. The main topics are to be the role of media in the defence system, acquiring information, control over weapons and its influence on security, moving the military up to the NATO standards and preparing a law on mobilisation. The counsellors are to give their opinion on the document determining the main directions in the Estonian defence policy. New objectives and possible improvements to the aforementioned document would be discussed, expert from the Defence Ministry Einar Rull told.

The IDAB group will have a meeting with President Lennart Meri July 17, and meet the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces Colonel Johannes Kert and representatives from the Foreign Ministry.

Latvia

Latvia: Defense Minister Praises U.S.-Baltic Military Training

LD1407074396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0613 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, July 14 (Interfax/BNS) - Latvian Defense Minister Andrejs Krastins praised the joint military exercise between U.S. and Baltic troops while visiting the Adazi training site, where the Baltic Challenge-96 exercise is under way, on Saturday [13 July].

"This is a real serious military exercise during which Americans saw how they could act on such a territory, on such a base and under such circumstances," he said.

This military exercise is also of serious political importance, Krastins said.

The military exercise confirms that the Baltic countries belong to European political unity, he said.

Krastins said the present military exercise would help Latvia integrate into international security structures. "If the exercise is a success, it will be easier to tell international organizations about the degree of our readiness for peacekeeping operations," he added.

The exercise shows that the Latvian National Armed Forces are capable of interacting with military units of the neighboring Baltic countries and the United States, he said.

U.S. troops helped Latvian snipers develop their skills, Krastins said, adding that snipers were very important during combat actions.

The Baltic Challenge-96 military exercise began at the Adazi training site on July 8. The exercise involves 705 U.S., Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian troops. This is the most serious military exercise launched in Latvia since the Russian troop withdrawal.

Foreign observers, including Russian observers, are monitoring the Baltic Challenge-96 military training.

Foreign ambassadors and military attaches accredited in Latvia will visit the training site on July 15.

The military exercise will be compl. [item ends mid-sentence as received]

Latvia: Kiev—No Differences Over Riga Joining NATO

LD1307152096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 13 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, July 13 (Interfax/BNS) - Riga and Kiev do not have differences over the proposed NATO expansion and attach much importance to their involvement in the NATO-sponsored program Partnership for Peace, the press center of the Latvian Foreign Ministry told Interfax Saturday [13 July].

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko arrived in Latvia for talks with his counterpart, Valdis Birkavs.

Ukraine shows understanding of Latvia's willingness to join the alliance, the press center said.

In their final statement, the two ministers agreed that "none of the countries is entitled to veto the decisions of other sovereign states, made in the process of creating a new architecture of European security.

"European security and stability should be based on mutually profitable cooperation and integration into international institutions, according to the choice of every specific country," Birkavs and Udovenko said in the statement.

Both Latvia and Ukraine oppose interference into the internal affairs of other countries and the emergence of areas of influence and special interests on the continent.

The statement stipulated the need to "refrain from any forms of isolationism and establishment of new borders in Europe."

Latvia: Ukrainian, Latvian Foreign Ministers on NATO, Partnership for Peace

WS1507091896 Tallinn BNS in English 1458 GMT 13 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jul 13, BNS — The European security and stability should be based on mutually favorable cooperation and integration with international structures according to the individual choice of each country.

Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs and his Ukrainian counterpart Pavlo [first name as received] Udovenko voiced the opinion in a joint statement during Birkavs' visit to Ukraine.

"The parties pursue non-interference in interior affairs of other countries and oppose the emergence of new zones of special interests in the continent," according to the statement.

Latvia and Ukraine understand each other's stance on the issue of NATO enlargement and attach great importance to the participation in the alliance's Partnership for Peace program.

The statement underscores the necessity to avoid any forms of isolation and drawing of new boundaries in Europe.

According to the ministers, the fight against organized crime, trafficking of drugs and nuclear materials is a key sphere of bilateral cooperation.

They also stressed the need to curb contraband of pieces of art and culture.

Latvia: Prime Minister Announces Dismissal of Six Ministers

LD1507142496 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A news conference is currently under way at the Cabinet of Ministers, at which Prime Minister Andris Skele promised to officially announce changes in the composition of the Latvian Government, demanding the resignation of ministers and announcing changes in the government structure.

Our correspondent Ainars Asaks is at the news conference. We are now in touch with him. Please, Ainars, tell us more.

[Asaks] Good evening. The news conference has just ended and it is already clearly known that the changes affect six ministers. These are, of course, big changes. In his announcement, Skele stressed that many of the government posts had been dictated by the political situation and therefore he has decided on such a step.

So, I can announce that Ernests Jurkans, minister for special tasks [local government issues]; Janis Gaigals, minister of state for education; Juris Sinka, minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Eriks Kaza, minister of state for [industry], property, and privatization; as well as Maris Gailis, minister of the environment and regional development, and Minister of Culture Ojars Sparitis have been relieved of their posts.

Kaza, Gailis, and Sparitis have themselves tendered their resignations. However, Jurkans' post, the post of minister for special tasks, has been scrapped. [Words indistinct] the posts of minister of state for education and minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been scrapped.

Skele added that other big changes will possibly be made in the government at a later stage. Several ministerial posts will be scrapped. However, he did not answer journalists questions as to when it could take place. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Lithuania: Lithuanian, Belarusian Premiers Urge Dynamic Relations

LD1307120696 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 12 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarus keenly appreciates its economic relations with Lithuania, which are developing more dynamically than with any other country, Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir has said. On Friday [12 July] Chyhir arrived in Lithuania on a two-day official visit.

In talks with Lithuanian Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius, Mr. Chyhir stressed the importance of ties with Lithuania, taking into consideration a rather difficult situation in the development of the Belarusian economy. He urged Lithuania to become more interested in Belarusian produce, such as tractors.

Speaking about the possibilities of expanding bilateral trade, the Belarusian prime minister said that, notwithstanding its customs union with Russia, Belarus is prepared to review its customs tariffs regulating trade with Lithuania. In almost three hours of talks, bilateral cooperation in the sphere of transport was given special attention. This includes the use of the Lithuanian Klaipeda Sea port for shipment of Belarusian cargo and creating favorable conditions on Belarusian territory for Lithuania's haulage companies.

Problems with regard to cooperation between the railway systems, customs operation, illegal migration, and debts for electricity supplies were also discussed.

Lithuania: Belarus Seeks To Pay Lithuania Back Debts With Goods

WS1507100796 Tallinn BNS in English 1756 GMT 12 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 12, BNS — Belarus will pay back its main debt for electricity supplied by Lithuania in 1992-93 but fines for delayed payments will have to be negotiated, Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir said Friday [12 July] during talks with his Lithuanian counterpart Mindaugas Stankevicius.

As of July 1, Belarus owed 1.8 mln U.S. dollars to Lithuania for supplied electricity while fines, according to Lithuania's estimations, ran at 7.2 mln dollars.

The premiers agreed to that experts of respective ministries will meet for one more round of talks to discuss the volume of fines and repayment deadlines.

Belarus wants to repay debts in goods, e.g farming vehicles, rather than in hard currencies.

At the meeting of the delegations, the Belarusian officials said the country plans to increase purchases of electric power threefold by the end of the year provided Lithuania does not increase energy prices.

It is cheaper for Belarus to buy electricity from Lithuania than to burn heating oil in its power stations.

Lithuania: Brazauskas To Fly to Atlanta Games 19 Jul

WS1507093896 Tallinn BNS in English
1611 GMT 12 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 12, BNS — Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas will fly next week to the United States to attend the opening ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic Games on July 19.

The president is also expected to be present at the Lithuanian national basketball team's first Olympic match with Croatia on July 20.

Brazauskas will stay in America until July 22. Lithuanian Greece-Roman wrestlers, swimmers, cyclists and rowers will also enter the Olympic race in Atlanta around that time.

The president will fly to Atlanta together with the Lithuanian Olympic team.

Lithuania: Brazauskas Discusses Visa Policy, Border Protection

LD1607122396 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Algirdas Brazauskas believes that problems facing Lithuania with regard to visa policies and border protection could be resolved within the next couple of years.

Speaking on national TV on Monday night [15 July], Brazauskas stressed that Lithuania has made considerable progress in the sphere of visa-free travel. The regime of visa-free travel has been established with 23 foreign countries. [passage omitted]

Speaking about state border protection, the president stressed that today the eastern border was of great importance and that currently the issue of border protection equipment was of great priority. The president said that the discipline at the border police units left much to be desired and that it was absolutely unacceptable for some individuals to serve within the ranks of the border police. Therefore, relevant conclusions should be drawn from this, Brazauskas said. [passage omitted]

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